

MICHAEL POWELL

## Summit praise for Thatcher

## Bush boosts the 'special relationship'

From Robin Oakley and Peter Stothard, Hamilton, Bermuda

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday signalled his willingness to come to the aid of Mrs Thatcher, an ally depicted by the American press as "yesterday's woman".

Before leaving Washington for the Bermuda summit, where he met Mrs Thatcher, Mr Bush said: "We have a special relationship with the UK. We always have. I feel I have a very frank and open relationship with Margaret Thatcher, for whom I have tremendous respect."

He added that she had done him many courtesies in his days as Vice-President. His reference to frankness reflected the differences the two leaders have had over German reunification and European unity, but the deliberate

cordiality was a clear attempt to calm British fears that the relationship in general has suffered from the change of presidency.

At their talks the Prime Minister abandoned her previous insistence on updating Nato's ground-launched short-range Lance missiles. But Mr Bush was notably cautious about her hopes of retaining a nuclear capacity based on German soil in the shape of a modernized air-launched nuclear missile system.

British fears that the US Administration gives much more weight to Bonn than to London will have been underscored by his rider that there would be "obviously a lot of concern for how this would affect Germany".

The White House press corps arrived at Hamilton, Bermuda, ahead of the President, and appeared to take the view that he is paying his last respects to a British leader on her way out. But the President is known to value Mrs Thatcher's judgement as the most experienced and seasoned world politician, particularly on European affairs, which will dominate their talks.

Mrs Thatcher and her small band of officials stood outside Government House and watched two helicopter-loads of United States ministers and officials arrive before the President himself touched down in a third helicopter. Mr Bush, all smiles, greeted Mrs Thatcher warmly. He said as he shook hands: "Hello Margaret, how are you?"

She responded, also with a smile: "I've never felt better." Earlier the President said he and Mrs Thatcher were "very close" in their assessments of the changes in Eastern Europe.

Yesterday's talks centred on the reshaping of European security and the recasting of Nato in the light of German reunification. Mrs Thatcher spelled out her ideas for developing the role of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) as an alliance for democracy, supplementing without supplanting Nato's defence role.

In Washington earlier, Mr Bush agreed that the subject was likely to be discussed and said: "Our position is that it is a matter for collective decision for Nato."

As the Bermuda summit talks began under grey and stormy skies, Mrs Thatcher

was asked if it would be a meeting of minds on European questions. Her affirmation that it would be was supported by Mr Bush, who added that their meetings normally were.

Questioned about differences on Germany, President Bush said: "These things have a way of coming together. I am very upbeat."

The summit centred on the future architecture of Nato and developments in Eastern Europe, with Mr Bush seeking British views on developments in the Soviet Union and Lithuania following Mr Douglas Hurd's talks in Moscow this week.

Mrs Thatcher is calling for the CSCE summit, which will take place later this year if a conventional forces in Europe troop cuts agreement is signed, to develop the organization, which already provides the framework for such agreements and for the development of human rights into something more permanent.

Her plans could offer scope for a deal with Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, who has called for a wider political role for Nato under the CSCE umbrella managing regional conflicts, sorting out political and economic relationships with Eastern Europe and verifying arms control agreements.

Mrs Thatcher, whose approach to existing institutions is more cautious, wants the CSCE to set out the conditions for free elections and to provide observers to make sure they are met.

She wants it to define the rule of law and human rights and to set out essential principles for sound, legal systems.

The CSCE, she believes, should extend political consultation to involve the maximum number of countries in Europe's future with two-yearly meetings of foreign ministers and special sessions when crisis management is required.

She further sees the CSCE being given a conciliation role in minority rights.

She wants it to add to the Helsinki Agreements the right to private property and the freedom to produce, buy and sell, without undue government interference.

The CSCE summit should also reaffirm the original Helsinki commitments on European frontiers.

Initial US reactions are Continued on page 16, col 8



Waiting in the rain for the plane to Spain: A damp start to the Easter holiday break for two young passengers at Gatwick airport yesterday

## Rain and roadworks frustrate travellers

By Mark Souster

THE main dampener on holidaymakers' spirits yesterday came not from industrial action by French or Spanish air traffic controllers, but from that other traditional Bank holiday offering - rain.

As if on cue, Friday the 13th began overcast and got steadily worse. Heavy rain over southern England and the Midlands made driving hazardous, and a spate of minor accidents made matters worse. The weather outlook is unsettled.

In Scotland, heavy traffic and poor weather caused delays on many roads. The A77 Glasgow to Ayr road, coast-bound, was virtually at a standstill at one point. The Tay Bridge was congested in both directions and traffic moved slowly on the M8 east of Edinburgh and the A9 northbound. Glasgow airport reported no problems as the Easter weekend is not particularly busy in Scotland.

Rain and roadworks caused many hold-ups in the north of England, especially on the M6. However, 150 flights from Manchester airport departed on time.

The RAC said that the 110 miles of motorway between London and Birmingham looked like a "monster metal snake" yesterday.

More than a million people are expected to travel overseas over Easter. Those hoping for sunshine are, however, likely to be disappointed; the forecast for the Continent is dull and overcast with rain until Monday.

The Civil Aviation Authority had feared that flights might be delayed because of action by French flight planning staff, which began at 4 am yesterday, and restrictions on flights imposed by Spanish air traffic controllers as a safety precaution. However, trouble failed to materialize and air travellers are now expected to have a trouble-free weekend.

Air control crisis, page 3  
Unleaded fuel shortage, page 3  
Leading article, page 11  
Forecast details, page 16

## Ministry 'cleared super gun exports to Iraq'

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE Sheffield company at the heart of the "super Iraqi gun" affair said yesterday it had a letter from the Department of Trade which made it clear there was no need for an export licence for the 52 forged steel tubes built for the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals.

The letter will be one of the crucial documents in the efforts by Forgemasters Engineering to clear its name in the investigation now under way by Customs after the seizure of eight crates of steel tubes from a merchant vessel at Teesport, Middlesbrough.

The letter, from the export licensing section of the DTI, was sent in the latter part of 1988, about two months after an agent from the Iraqi Government had contacted Forgemasters about a contract to forge massive steel tubes.

A DTI official said "an internal look at procedures" had been ordered to check on the background to the case. He denied it was a full-blooded inquiry. The official said that in the case of any

exports to Iraq, if a company needed to seek a licence, it would automatically be refused.

This was because there was a blanket ban on arms sales which always needed a licence. "If there is some doubt, like for example, if a contract involves the sale of types which could be used on ambulances or military vehicles, companies would be expected to consult us," the official said.

Forgemasters said they did consult the DTI after the approach from Iraq. The first meeting with an Iraqi agent from the Ministry of Industry and Minerals took place in Brussels in June, 1988.

Asked why it was in Brussels and not at the company's premises in Sheffield, a spokesman for Forgemasters said it was at the request of the Iraqis. He said the company had never had any contact with Dr Gerald Bull, the Canadian-born ballistics scientist who was an expert in long-range artillery systems and had been a consultant to

the Iraqi Government. Dr Bull, who was murdered last month, was based in Brussels.

Forgemasters said that after the meeting in Brussels, they telephoned the DTI. The spokesman said: "There was no point in discussing a contract to build 52 steel tubes with a very high capital value if we were not going to be allowed to export them. The war between Iran and Iraq was still on."

The phone call was followed by correspondence between the company and the DTI. Yesterday the solicitors for the company were considering releasing the letter from the DTI which stated that an export licence was not required.

Forgemasters said there were two separate contracts, each for 26 tubes, of which 44 had already been delivered to the Ministry of Industry and Minerals in Baghdad. All were cleared by Customs, the company said.

Iraqi propaganda, page 2  
Dr Bull profile, page 2

## Two more prisoners give up

By Ronald Faux

THE Strangeways jail siege dragged into its thirteenth day yesterday and two more prisoners gave in to the authorities.

Only 10 or 11 rioters remain inside the wrecked wings of the prison but there were no immediate signs that more were preparing to surrender.

The confrontation yesterday followed the well-established lines of prison officers patiently negotiating through the barricades and prisoners following their own policy of slow surrender.

There had been hopes of an early end to the siege yesterday morning when relatives of inmates were brought to the prison and activity was evident among prison staff wearing riot gear. Shortly afterwards one man surrendered in F Wing.

Two hours later a second prisoner contacted a member of the board of visitors and said he wanted to give himself up. He was taken for medical checks, a shower and change of clothes and was then transported to another prison.

## REVIEW

## Mandela in Britain

As Nelson Mandela arrives to address a rally at Wembley, our writers examine the diplomatic tactics of the ANC since his release from jail, and report on a certain lack of harmony backstage at the stadium. Pages 20 and 29

## Family guide to Easter

The Battersea Park parade, Easter egg hunts, steam trains and working windmills. These and many other ideas for the holiday. Page 33

## Galapagos at risk

The unique creatures of the Galapagos Islands that inspired Charles Darwin are under pressure from tourism and commercial development. Charles Bremner reports on a conflict of interests in Nature's wilderness. Page 29

## TRAVEL

## In praise of Paris

Our Great Cities series continues with a report on Paris - and how to overcome the legendary hostility of the locals - by our correspondent Philip Jacobson. Page 53

## SPORT

## A year after Hillsborough

In English football learning the lessons of Hillsborough? On the first anniversary of the tragedy David Miller and John Goodbody report. Page 49

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## Two Britons killed in Bayeux plane crash

By Ruth Gladhill

TWO Britons died when a light aircraft crashed near Bayeux in northern France yesterday. Two other passengers were injured.

Witnesses said the British-registered Beech 33 aircraft, owned by Kingair of Peterborough, exploded over a built-up area. The main fuselage hit the ground only yards from a house and 100 yards from three petrol stations.

The Civil Aviation Authority was unable to confirm a report that a jet flew in the path of the crashed plane seconds before the crash.

French police last night named two of the dead as Mrs Carolyn Lilley, aged 45, and Mr Norman Lilley, aged 46, of Ampthorpe, North Yorkshire. Two other passengers were named as May Wilson and Mark Lilley. They were taken to Bayeux hospital with serious injuries.

The aircraft was heading from Perpignan when witnesses reported that they heard an explosion and saw falling debris at 12.50 pm.

One of the dead passengers fell on a parked car. Firemen found wreckage scattered over a wide area.

## Scottish dig may lay bare St Ninian's claim

By Kerry Gill

ARCHAEOLOGISTS are cautiously optimistic that they could unearth the remains of Scotland's first recorded Christian settlement in an excavation this summer at one of Europe's most important religious sites.

They believe they may discover the remains of an early Christian community established at Whitorn, near Wigton, Dumfries and Galloway, in the centuries following the death of Christ.

Until now, the popular belief has been that Christianity was brought to Scotland by St Ninian, who arrived near Whitorn after a journey from Ireland, probably at around the end of the 4th century, and built a stone church, Candida Casa, on the site.

The only evidence comes from St Bede, writing in the 8th century, who

states that Ninian was earlier than St Columba, who arrived in Scotland in 563.

Mr Peter Hill, the director of the dig, said: "We know we shall find on this important period. It will undoubtedly be the most exciting season of excavations to date."

The Whitorn site has been the subject of intense archaeological work for the past five years. The area being explored stands near the ruined Whitorn Priory. The centre of a Northumbrian bishopric, it was known throughout Europe as a place of pilgrimage.

One of the most interesting aspects of the dig has been the range of discoveries made. As well as finding relics of Victorian times, an early post-Reformation manse (ecclesiastical residence) and remains of early

timber and wattle houses, archaeologists have been kept busy removing skeletons from a medieval graveyard.

The public's interest in the project has been such that the site has become one of the most important tourist attractions in the south west of Scotland.

More than two million items have been discovered since explorations began. A selection of the finds, including metal and leather fragments, pottery and coins are on show in a visitor centre near by.

Mr Hill said: "We know there were burials within buildings on the site and we are sure they will be important figures - common people were not buried inside churches during this period. They could have been bishops or local kings or potentates, but we will not know for certain until this

part of the site is examined in May or June."

During the 1950s, the bodies of three 12th and 13th century bishops were discovered. Mr Hill said he hoped that his team would find their predecessors from 400 years earlier. "We do not know what we will unearth below the Northumbrian layer; there could be evidence of Ninian's era or just bedrock," he added.

However, the excavations will not reveal the body of Ninian, whose shrine drew kings and nobility as pilgrims throughout the medieval period. His bones, encased in silver, went to the Scots College in Douai, France, at the time of the Reformation. But the college suffered the ravages of war and the remains later disappeared.

## Kremlin admits Katyn massacre

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

IN ONE of the most painful admissions of Stalinist crimes, the Soviet Union yesterday officially blamed the NKVD, Stalin's secret police, for the massacre in 1940 of up to 15,000 Polish officers in a forest at Katyn.

A Tass statement, timed to coincide with the Kremlin meeting between President Gorbachev and President Jaruzelski of Poland, said the Soviet side expressed "profound regret" over "one of the greatest crimes of Stalinism".

The admission reverses adamant Soviet insistence for almost fifty years that the Nazis were responsible for the massacre outside Smolensk when they occupied the area. They disinterred 4,000 corpses, and invited international observers to inspect

them. The remaining 11,000 Poles have never been found.

General Jaruzelski is to visit Katyn today at what is expected to be the emotional climax of his three-day visit to the Soviet Union.

Tass said that copies of the archive documents putting direct responsibility on Beria, the head of the NKVD, and his associates, had been handed over to the Polish side. The admission lifts a shadow that has hung over Moscow's relations with Poland ever since the Second World War. It is a gesture of atonement long demanded by Warsaw that will do much to convince Poland of the Soviet Union's sincerity in wanting a fresh start.

Grims shadow, page 8



Sympathy isn't enough. £25 is.

It takes money to keep a child like this safe from further harm. The NSPCC has Child Protection Officers working throughout the country to protect children at risk. A donation of £25 can help save a child's life. And when you consider that the NSPCC relied almost entirely on public donations to help 50,000 children last year, you'll understand why your donation is so vital. Please send £25.00 - more if you can - today. It'll do so much more good than just sympathy.

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I enclose my Cheque/Postal Order for:

£175 £150 £125 £100 £75 £50 £25

I would like to donate by Access/Visa, expiry date:

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Send your donation to: Christopher Brown Ref 4001653 NSPCC FREEPOST, London, EC1B 1QQ. Or ring 01-242 1626.

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## THE 'BIG BERTHA' DEBATE

# Iraq claims UK lying for political advantage

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

THE state-owned Iraqi media yesterday stepped up its anti-British propaganda campaign and accused the British Government of deliberately spreading lies about Baghdad's military plans to divert attention from its own political problems.

The new wave of attacks followed the seizure of parts claimed by British officials to be intended for a giant gun. Iraq maintains that they are pipes for its petro-chemical industry.

"Thatcher's Government is facing a very critical economic and political dilemma... that forces it to fabricate these outside crises," said al-Thawra, the paper of the ruling Baath party. It accused Britain of attempting to prevent Iraq from acquiring advanced technology.

Earlier attacks have denigrated many aspects of Britain, including character assassination of members of the Royal Family. After the "gun" find, Mr Tariq Aziz, the Foreign Minister, told reporters: "Even if we buy a box of chocolates from Britain, they will say Iraq will use it to produce an atomic bomb."

Yesterday al-Thawra, the favoured mouthpiece of President Saddam Hussein, claimed that the British Government, driven by "its old colonialist mentality", had been directing a media campaign against Baghdad since the execution there last month of the London-based Iranian journalist Mr Farzad Bazof.

As with earlier British claims about a plan to smuggle nuclear trigger devices through Heathrow airport, the Iraqis dismissed suggestions that the tubes had any military

purpose. al-Thawra said the gun theory was "mere lies, fabrication and a silly fuss with no real foundation".

The editorial went on to condemn Britain for collaborating with the US to reimpose their hegemony on the Arab world and to help the Israelis to maintain their occupation of Arab land.

"This flagrant hostility towards Iraq reveals that the successors of the British Empire want to avenge the strikes dealt to their empire by the Iraqi people," it added.

The army daily al-Qadisiya stated that Iraq would not heed what it called a systematic campaign of slander launched by the British Government, and would continue with its efforts to acquire modern technology. "Iraq, which fought for eight years in defence of its sovereignty and existence (in the Gulf War), will not surrender even a minute part of its rights and dignity," the paper said.

Iraq received backing from other Arab states. The Kuwaiti paper al-Wakeel quoted unquestioningly an Iraqi diplomat who said that the FBI had planted the nuclear triggers discovered by British Customs agents in London.

According to the diplomat's account, the FBI operating at Heathrow airport had replaced technical equipment which Iraq had contracted to purchase from two British and US firms with other parcels containing the nuclear triggering devices.

Mr Rahim Taher, commercial attaché at Iraq's Embassy in Kuwait, was quoted as telling the paper: "My country will continue to carry out its scientific and peaceful programmes, no matter what."



A Customs officer inspecting one of the sections of the suspected gun barrel at Middlesbrough yesterday

## Expert's ballistics skills attracted countries keen to build big guns

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

DR GERALD Bull, the ballistics expert murdered in Brussels last month by an unknown assassin, was recognized to be a genius. His designs for long-range systems attracted the attentions of many countries eager to build their military capabilities.

The Iraqis turned to him when they began showing an interest in reviving a 20-year-old "super gun" project capable of launching satellites or weapons into low earth orbit, according to Defence, a British magazine, which published an article, "A space gun for Iraq?", in its February edition.

It is believed that Iraq had acquired a copy of Dr Bull's book, *The Paris Guns and Project HARP*, published in 1988, which discussed his

research into a high altitude gun. His reputation for invention and technical expertise was such that a few days before he was shot, rumours had apparently been circulating that he was engaged in nuclear research for the Iraqis.

His company, Space Research Corporation, which moved from the United States to Brussels in 1980, had developed close links with Iraq. According to his son, Mr Michael Bull, the company was employed mainly in a hydro-electric engineering project. It is believed, however, that he had recently begun work on a contract to perfect Iraq's long-range artillery systems.

Dr Bull, a Canadian-born American who served four months of a six-month prison sentence in 1980 for illegal arms shipments to South Africa, was shot twice in the head and also in the back.

He never took personal security precautions and had apparently just left the lift in his apartment block when he was shot. The gunman used a silenced and Belgian police believed it was the work of a professional.

Dr Bull was born in 1928 in northern Ontario. He won a scholarship to Toronto University and at 22 was awarded a doctorate in aerophysics. From university, he joined the Canadian Government's Armament and Research Development Establishment.

He became frustrated, however, because his desire to research into advanced weapon systems was thwarted by lack of government funds. A man of enormous ego, he decided to continue his research on his own and became engineering professor at McGill University, Montreal.

His idea was to develop a super gun which could launch space systems far more cheaply than by rocket. His scheme won support from the Canadian and US governments in the 1960s. They put millions of dollars into the High Altitude Research Project (HARP), headed by Dr Bull and Mr Charles Murphy, of the US Army's ballistics research laboratories in Maryland.

According to Defence, the HARP gun, consisting of three 16in naval guns bolted together, was so successful when tested at ranges in Barbados, Canada and the US—a projectile was launched more than 112 miles into lower space—that it set a world altitude record for that sort of firing.

However, the project was dropped in the late 1960s when the US and Canadian governments decided that the future lay in conventional rocketry.

Defence said in February: "It is feared that Baghdad... may be moving to establish its own HARP project. It is understood that the HARP concept has recently been dis-

cussed by Iraqi officials and representatives of a Western ammunition manufacturer."

The magazine said Dr Bull's company had already been involved in Iraq's military programme and was thought to have developed two new self-propelled guns, the Fao and the Majnoon, which Baghdad unveiled last year.

According to Defence, the three sections of the HARP gun still exist. The biggest, 172ft long, is at the old Space Research Corporation test range at Highwater, near the Quebec-Vermont border in Canada. A second, originally 119.5ft long, is at the US Army's Yuma proving ground in Arizona, and the third, also 119.5ft long, is at the former Space Research Corporation range at Paragon, Barbados.

The Iraqis were not the only ones interested in reviving the HARP gun. The potential applications of the technology were highlighted in the December issue of the *US Army Journal* by retired General Arthur Trudeau, a former chief of army intelligence, who was head of research and development at the US Army Department during the early years of the project.

He argued that the removal of Pershing and ground-launched cruise missiles under the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty had undermined NATO's strategic deterrence capability. One way of filling the gap would be "with long-range non-nuclear artillery based on the HARP experiments", he said.

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## 1,000 people moved as fire releases cloud of chemicals

By a Staff Reporter

MORE than 1,000 people were moved from their homes when a cloud containing potassium cyanide formed after a chemical fire at a secret research centre on the outskirts of Chelmsford, Essex.

About 400 men, women and children were taken by coach and bus to a comprehensive school nearby where they were given refreshments by the WRVS as the county emergency plan was put into operation. Another 600 people went to relatives in the area.

Police said four officers were treated by a doctor after complaining of feeling sick and dizzy and two members of the public were taken to hospital after suffering similar symptoms.

Residents were allowed home after 6½ hours.

The fire, which sent a plume of black smoke 100 ft into the air, broke out yesterday morning in a painting workshop at the GEC-Marconi Research Establishment, which is used for research on defence contracts, much of it secret, in the village of Great Baddow.

One project under way at the establishment is radar work for the US space shuttle Columbus, to go into orbit in 1992.

Divisional Commander Mike Deadman, in charge of the firefighting operation, said the blaze started when a thermostat failed and a vat of chemicals overheated. Chemicals from other tanks, including 50 litres of dilute potassium cyanide spilled into the fire.

Twelve firemen, wearing breathing apparatus, took three hours to control it with toxic fumes hindering the

operation. Mrs Joyce Seager, aged 52, who lives near the research centre, said: "I feel slightly shocked to hear that such dangerous chemicals are being kept by Marconi."

"It is very close to old people and children. I think we should have been told more about the risks."

Mr Leslie Corsham, aged 50, heard police warnings on his radio but paid no attention. He said: "I thought it was some sort of joke or mistake. I only took it seriously when a policeman called and told us we had to get out."

Anglian Water scientists have been called in to carry out tests because of fears that rivers may have been contaminated by toxic chemicals leaking into drains.

Chief Supt Alan Gilling of Essex police, said: "The blaze started in a chemical store at 9.45am and we have no reason at this stage to suspect any crime."

"We were very impressed with the way everyone co-operated with the evacuation. There were only two elderly people who refused to be moved and we told them to keep their windows shut."

## 999 call by child was 'ignored'

A internal inquiry was launched yesterday after it was disclosed that police apparently ignored a 999 call from David Kaffon, aged six, who was left alone beside his mother's corpse after his father, Michael Kaffon, killed her with a shotgun.

He called police, and told them: "Mummy's dead — she's been shot and she's covered with blood."

The boy managed to tell the officer he lived in the Staplegrave area of Taunton, Somerset, but it was 10 hours before police acted — after David rang again.

British Telecom said that a police officer who took the first call did not request a telephone trace when the line suddenly went dead.

Police Inspector Donald Bond said: "An investigation is being made into the circumstances surrounding a 999 call made to Taunton police station by a child on Monday night."

## New police chief

Mr Richard Wells, deputy assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, is to be the new Chief Constable of South Yorkshire. One of his main tasks will be to restore morale within the force, which was severely criticized by the official inquiry into the Hillsborough football disaster.

## Press retirement

Mr Bill Gillespie, aged 53, who played a key role in News International's move to Wapping, east London, in 1986, is to retire due to ill-health. He retires from his present position as general manager of Today. He joined News Group Newspapers as deputy managing director in 1981.

## Girl mauled

Zoe Pullin, aged 5, of Harthill, Strathclyde, was dragged from the back steps of her home on Thursday and held by a pit bull terrier, her mother, Mrs Wendy Pullin, said yesterday. The girl was treated at the Law Hospital near Carlisle for a 1in hole in her chest and bites on her arm.

## Four out of five

Viswanathan Anand, the Indian grandmaster, has retained his lead after five of the nine rounds of the Prestwich international chess tournament, with four points. In second place is Michael Adams, aged 18, from Truro, Cornwall, the British champion, who has 3½ points.

## No winners

There were no valid claims for the weekly game of the Times Portfolio Platinum competition, which has a prize of £4,000. The money will be added to next week's total; the daily competition will restart in Tuesday's edition.

## CORRECTIONS

The article "Saving the satanic mills" (April 11) should have mentioned New Mill, Salford, in a list of threatened buildings. Salf's Mill near by has been restored by Salf's Estates Ltd.

The performing arts clinic run by Professor Carol Grinda (Health, April 12) is held at the London College of Music, not the Royal College of Music.

## Vital clues in Dr Bull's 1988 manual

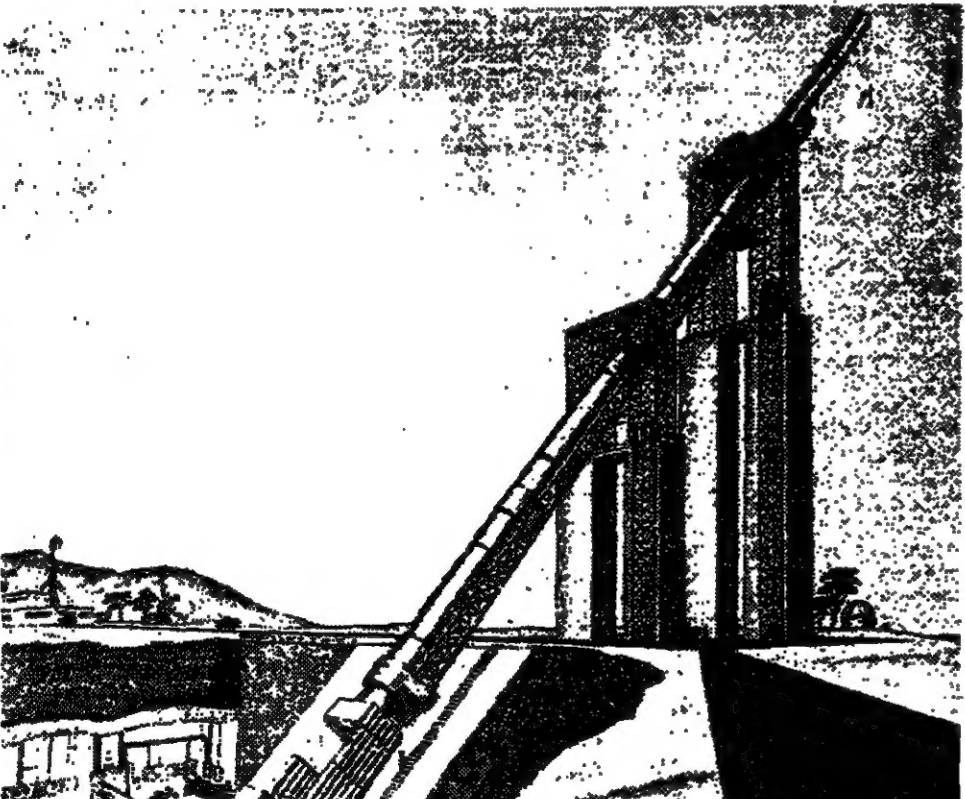
By Mark Souster

The conviction of Customs officials and Ministry of Defence experts that the material found at Teesside could be used as part of a 140-ton gun is based on the fact that the dimensions match exactly a description and diagram of a gun in a 1988 manual co-authored by Dr Gerald Bull.

A copy of the manual, *The Paris Guns and Project HARP*, has been obtained by The Times. In a section headed "The Study of Large Calibre Systems", Dr Bull wrote that HARP (High Altitude Artillery project) was based initially on US naval guns.

Modern steel characteristics and fabrication made fixed elevation launch tubes of very large diameter a relatively low cost proposition. "One metre diameter launch tubes of up to 300 calibres could be built for well under \$10 million," it said. "The complex traverse and elevating mechanism of gunnery, tube rifling etc are not required."

Illustrations in the manual convey the impression of an enormous tube, the first 20 per cent consisted of a wall thickness of some 250mm, tapered to some 20mm at the muzzle to



Dr Bull's drawing, showing his concept of a HARP Mark II

support muzzle pressures involved. Dr Bull wrote that with the advances in full

understanding of the nature of the system, it became apparent that as multi-stage rocket

systems were being developed, the gun itself was an over complication.

## 'Too-old' candidate quits

By Kerry Gill

MR ALLAN Angus MacLeod's plan to become Britain's oldest councillor has been scotched by his daughter, who has ordered him to withdraw his nomination for the Western Isles Islands Council and to forget such puerile nonsense.

At the age of 83, Mr MacLeod put his name forward for election in the council's Sandwick ward in Stornoway, and, because he was unopposed, would have joined the non-party political council on May 3, election day.

His forced withdrawal has created a problem for the council, however. It is now too late for the selection of another candidate in time for the election and the seat will remain vacant until a by-election is held.

Mr MacLeod, of Newvalley, Stornoway, used to represent the Laxdale ward on the other side of town, but has been retired for many years. While his daughter, Mrs Cath-

erine Cowan, was away in Cyprus, he decided to re-enter the political arena.

His re-emergence, however, was short-lived. When Mrs Cowan returned, she promptly withdrew her father's nomination and Mr MacLeod, known to the islanders as "Allan Angus", had to stand down.

Yesterday, Mrs Cowan said: "I insisted my father stand down as he is too old now for this sort of thing. I told him we would not have any of this nonsense. Surely the Sandwick electors could have picked someone younger and more able for such a demanding job?"

"If he had not agreed to stand down himself, I would have called a public meeting to make the ward select someone else."

Mr Robert Barnett, the council's legal director, confirmed that the nomination had been withdrawn after publication of lists of candidates Tuesday, and that a vacancy would arise.

## Fish stocks 'threatened'

FISHERMEN off the west coast of Scotland, fighting to protect their traditional inshore grounds, say the Government's new licensing scheme will lead to the decimation of stocks (Kerry Gill writes).

The scheme allows the licences of two old boats to be combined, enabling a single new and more powerful boat to be built. The Government believes it will make boat licensing more flexible.

Mr Duncan MacInnes, secretary of the Western Isles Fishermen's Association, said: "New vessels built in this way will be far more efficient and destructive than the old ones

they replace." Its effect, he said, would mean that the Government was saved from introducing a controversial, and expensive, decommissioning scheme but would do nothing to protect local fish stocks.

While the capacity of a newly-licensed vessel cannot be more than the aggregate of two old vessels, the new boat would be far more advanced and powerful. The aggregate is arrived at through a formula taking into account engine power and vessel size.

Mr MacInnes said that the scheme could lead to outdated boats being bought up by fishing companies based on

the east coast. The effect would irrevocably damage the viability of the western fleet.

Lord Sanderson, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, said: "It will enable individual fishermen to tailor the capacity of their boats more closely to needs while at the same time exerting some downward pressure on the total capacity of the fleet."

Lord Sanderson added, however, that the Government was aware there were fears that the new arrangements might have adverse consequences. "We are very alive to these fears and will be closely monitoring the operation of the new scheme."

## Beethoven manuscript may fetch £500,000

By John Shaw

THE original manuscript of the first movement of Beethoven's Sonata for Cello and Piano in A Major, one of his greatest chamber works, is expected to sell for £400,000-£500,000 at Sotheby's in London on May 17.

It belonged to the late Dr Felix Salzer, a distinguished musicologist who was born in Vienna.

His mother was a sister of Ludwig Wittgenstein, the philosopher, and it was from her family that he acquired the 16-page manuscript and Mozart's Rondo for Piano in F Major, K494 (£40,000-£60,000). Dr Salzer taught

music theory at several colleges and universities in the United States.

He retired as emeritus professor at the City University of New York in 1974 and died in 1986.

His wife worked with him closely and she has decided to sell the manuscripts which he believed should be freely available to other scholars.

Beethoven wrote the cello sonata in 1807-08. The manuscript, heavily revised in brown crayon and black ink, shows the creative process at work.

Sotheby's believes it is the only autographed source for

## SALEROOM

the work, apart from a few sketches, to survive.

The sale also includes a joint letter from Leopold Mozart and his son Wolfgang Amadeus, written home during a trip to Italy in 1772. It reveals the very different characters of father and son.

Leopold, practical and factual, gives details of their health and welfare. However Wolfgang, who was then aged 16, is much more high-spirited and ends with his name, the date and a greeting to his mother and sister written backwards.

The letter is thought likely to fetch between £45,000 and £65,000.

## SALE ROOM

● A bronze bust of the celebrated First Lord Cherbury (c1581-1648), which made £264,000 at Sotheby's on Thursday, is going back to Powis Castle, the home of his family, in Wales.

The bust was by Hubert Le Sueur and dated 1631.

It will be housed in the castle in the summer and at the National Museum of Wales in the winter. The work was bought jointly by the National Trust and the Museum.

The National Art Collections Fund gave £20,000 towards the purchase price. Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman

of the fund, said: "We are delighted to be able to help return this splendid bust to its most fitting home."

● The studio contents of the late Dr William Johnstone, a leading art teacher and British modernist, made a total of £340,296 at Christie's in Glasgow.

Dr Johnstone, a Scot, was principal of both the Camberwell and Central schools of art.

"Evolutionary Programme 1979" made the top price of £33,000.

It was shown at the major retrospective exhibition of his work at the Hayward Gallery at the South Bank, London, in 1981.

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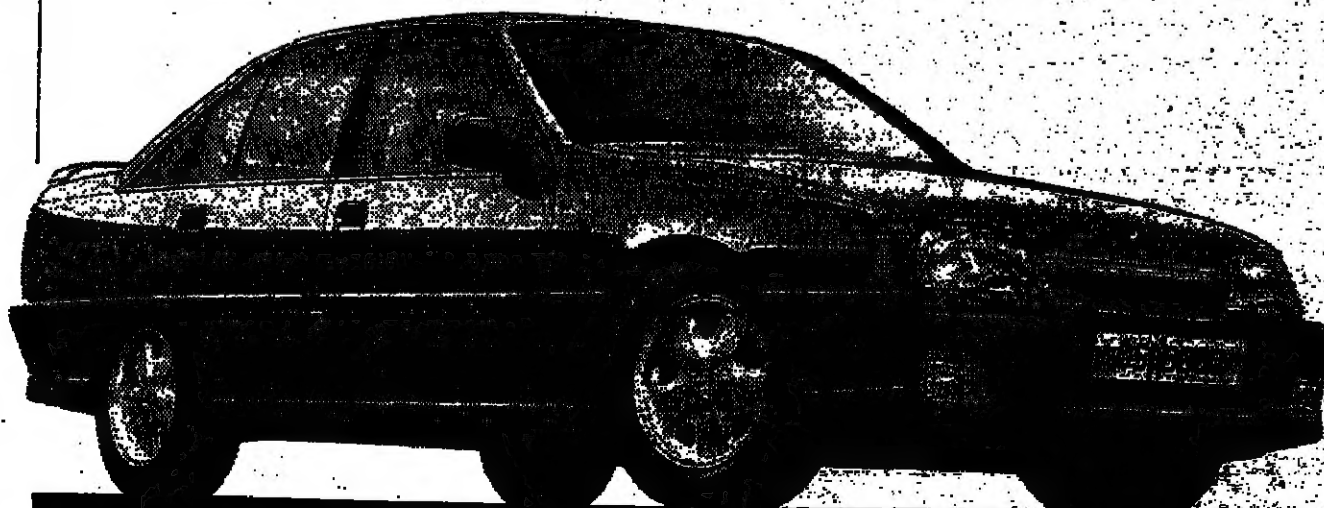
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# Tory MPs to rebel at squeeze on police perk

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

CONSERVATIVE backbenchers are planning a revolt after Easter over a Treasury squeeze on housing allowances paid to the police.

Ten MPs have signed an Opposition motion calling for the annulment of regulations implementing the Home Secretary's decision on the rent allowance, and up to 70 have voiced misgivings about the ruling.

Mr Michael Shersby, MP for Uxbridge and parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation, said the proposals could result in some police officers being up to £1,000 worse off than they would have been had Mrs David Waddington accepted the Police Arbitration Tribunal recommendations.

Mr Waddington "set aside" those recommendations — something the Home Office told the Edmund Davies Committee in 1977 would happen only for reasons of "grave national importance".

Conservative MPs and the staff side of the Police Negotiating Committee say he has given no such reasons, although he has made two concessions to try to avoid a confrontation with police.

The controversy centres on proposed changes in the rent allowance paid to officers who live in their own homes to balance the benefits received by the 16,000 officers who live in police accommodation free of rent and rates, and on changes affecting those 16,000 officers who will in future have to pay their community charges and water rates.

The tribunal proposed that the rent allowance — which was previously uprated every two years based on a commercial valuation of properties in an area — should be determined by a new formula combining the RPI housing index and the Building Societies Association house price index.

In setting aside the award, Mr Waddington effectively froze the allowance until the force housing allowance, which is lower and came into effect for all new recruits on April 1, has reached the same level.

The police claim this could take more than 10 years.

The decision meant that the

## L'Oreal hair products withdrawn

L'OREAL hair care products were withdrawn from sale in Northern Ireland yesterday after the Animal Liberation Front claimed to have contaminated bottles in protest against alleged experiments on animals by the manufacturer.

Four suspect bottles were found in supermarkets of the Stewart's chain. Three were found at Boots stores in Lisburn and Belfast, and another at a Crazy Prices store, also in Lisburn.

Warnings were telephoned to several Belfast newspapers on Thursday.

As Good Friday is a normal trading day, supermarkets and chemists checked stocks for contaminated bottles which, the callers said, carried white labels.

It is the second time in recent months that L'Oreal has been the target of action by animal rights campaigners in Northern Ireland.

# New rates force the village shops to close

By John Young

MRS. Beatrice Curtin recently received a letter from the *Evening Chronicle* in Bath. "Congratulations on 62 years service, without a holiday", it read.

Now, however, faced with a combination of the poll tax and the uniform business rate, she has decided to call it a day. The little shop, which has been supplying the villagers of Norton St Philip, Somerset, with tobacco, sweets and newspapers since long before any of the present inhabitants were born, has closed its door for the last time.

"I worked out that, even with a rebate, I would have to pay another £20 a week," she says. "My son said I'd have to work myself to death to earn the extra money. He said it would not be worth it just to pay it to the Government."

Mrs Curtin's shop is only one of hundreds which may be forced to close in villages all over Britain. It is a prospect which is causing some concern to organisations which for years have been drawing attention to the plight of the village shop and the serious effect that its loss may have on the community.

Such shops have become victims of increased affluence, enabling people to drive to the nearest town to do their main weekly shopping where prices are generally lower and the choice much wider. Those that have survived rely mostly on small, casual purchases and cannot afford a steep increase in costs.

"This is one of the unlooked-for effects of local government reform," Mr Jeremy Fennell, of Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), says. "Village shops are in fact worse off than big shops because they



The picturesque village street of Norton St Philip and (below) Mrs Curtin sits in the doorway of the shop she has had to close after 62 years

cannot absorb increases in overheads by raising prices. Their turnover is small and, as well as rate increases, they are facing higher charges for electricity and water."

District councils have powers to remit rates in cases of hardship, he points out, but in doing so they must pay due regard to the concerns of charge-payers and they may decide that increasing the level of poll tax to compensate for the lost revenue is unacceptable.

Mrs Curtin, whose parents were born and raised in the village, took over the shop with her late husband in 1927. In contrast, Mr Paul Smith and his wife, Jean, moved into the general store a few yards down the picturesque main street just two-and-a-half years ago.

He was an engineer and she a hairdresser but they both decided they wanted a change. "When we came here the shop was very run down but we

have built up a good business," he says.

"Up to now our rates have been about £500 a year but, what with the new business rate and the poll tax, we would have to pay something like £2,000."

So they too have decided to shut up shop for good. He has bought a newspaper delivery franchise and she will go back to hairdressing and they will continue to live there. "It's a nice place and we do not want to move but it won't ever open as a shop again."

The local vicar, the Reverend Trevor Farnille, is one of three diocesan chaplains for rural affairs appointed by the Bishop of Bath and Wells to take a special interest in social and environmental issues.

"One of our main concerns is what is happening to village life," he says.

"Shops are having to close because we do not support them enough. Their prices are too high but they cannot

reduce them unless they get more trade."

"Many of them are tottering anyway and the poll tax and the uniform business rate are likely to be the final straw."

"The loss of facilities is adding to rural deprivation, which is something that townspeople do not appreciate. If the big breweries are forced by the EC to sell off some of their pubs it will be the village pubs that go because they are not making money."

"Once you lose the school, the shop and the pub you will lose all community spirit, because there is nowhere for people to meet. Fortunately, the school is still quite lively with about 40 pupils but more wealthy people are moving into the village and that often means private education."

"Two of our three shops have gone and we just have the post office left. If that goes, and the school goes, we are finished as a community."



# Solicitor training proposals 'would lower standards'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

PROPOSALS for overhauling the training of solicitors would "seriously lower standards of entry to the profession", the College of Law has said.

The college, which teaches vocational training courses, says that Law Society proposals to cut the 35-week course to 24 weeks would reduce training time by as much as 40 per cent.

"The necessary ground cannot be covered in that time, except so superficially that it would seriously lower the standard of entry to the profession and result in those entering articles being much less well-prepared than at present," the college said.

Such a reduction in standards would "nullify" any advantages of plans to increase access to the profession and reduce the cost of training, it said.

The proposals, which have been put forward by the Law Society's training committee, come before its council for discussion next month in what is expected to be a heated debate.

Under them, one-year vocational course would become shorter and more skills-based. It would be followed by a period of employment broadly akin to serving articles, but possibly for 18 months instead of two years.

The college concedes that there should be more emphasis

on skills, but says that the proposals fail to strike a proper balance between this and gaining an understanding of relevant practices and procedures.

Another proposal is that the final examination, now under the aegis of the Law Society, would be replaced by a system of internal examinations conducted by the colleges and polytechnics.

The college welcomed internal examinations but said that it could lead to the Law Society losing control over entry to the profession and could also result in variable standards between institutions in both course content and examinations.

It urges instead a combination of internal assessment and an external examination set by the Law Society on the "open book principle", by which students have access to text books.

That would reduce the element of rote learning and maintain consistency of standards, it says.

The college also criticized a proposal to defer the teaching of accounts to a professional skills course to be held towards the end of articles.

It says that the principles of accounting should be part of the new vocational course, otherwise trainees would not be properly prepared for conveyancing and probate.

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# Water charges could mean bankruptcy, builders say

By Christopher Wrayman, Property Correspondent

NEW charges by the privatized water companies for water and sewerage connection to flats and houses will increase prices and could force some builders into bankruptcy, the housebuilding industry says.

It is asking for help from the Government to put pressure on the companies to waive or defer these charges. Under the Water Act 1989, the companies are permitted for the first time to make an infrastructure charge for each new connection, and the maximum, but discretionary, charges vary from £351 in the Northumbria area to £1,534 in Wessex.

In a letter to the chairman of all 10 companies, Mr Graham Pye, president of the House-Builders' Federation, says that on a rising housing market the extra cost would have been passed on to the customer but in the present depressed market this was not possible.

High interest rates had caused sales problems and builders' own costs had escalated. House prices had not

risen in many areas and had fallen in some. "The imposition of these charges on houses, started last year, will be an extremely heavy burden for many builders to bear and there is no doubt that, in a number of cases, it could be the final straw that causes liquidations or bankruptcy for smaller builders," he says.

Pointing out that the companies have discretion to vary or waive the charges he "urgently" requests them to consider waiving them, initially for a year, "to provide the transitional relief that the Government, in its haste, failed to include in the legislation".

The Federation of Master Builders has also expressed its concern at the charges in a letter to Mr David Hunt, Minister for Local Government and Inner Cities. Mr Bill Hilton, the federation's director-general, said it had not been possible to build the charges into the cost of new developments. They would have to be financed by a significant increase in house prices.

"Where a housebuilder has already undertaken to build residential units for a fixed price, perhaps for a local authority, these infrastructure costs are a direct charge against his profit margins at a time when they are very low due to a poor housing market," he said.

He asked for the minister's assistance and suggested that the charges be waived for contracts already entered into.



Mr Pye: Urging water firms to waive charges



# GPs win concession over prescription budgets

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

NEW government guidelines aimed at curbing NHS drugs costs are expected to be far less rigorous than the White Paper on health service reforms intended.

The concessions, which will be seen as a victory for general practitioners, follow months of lobbying by the medical profession to ensure that doctors would not be put under pressure to deny treatment to patients. A working paper, due to be published by the Department of Health next month, will be aimed at the 10 per cent of GPs who prescribe "excessively", but is said to be far more lenient on the others.

The move reflects the department's recent softer approach towards the reforms. Efforts will now concentrate on encouraging the use of generic drugs and reducing the variations in prescribing costs, which range from £26 for each patient seen in some practices to £40 a head in others.

Whitehall sources said last week that the new indicative drug budgets, to be introduced in April 1991, will be set in line with individual GPs' spending in the previous year with an adjustment for general inflation and demographic factors. Although the increase may not meet the 12 per cent rise in last year's open-ended drug bill, it

is expected to be well above inflation.

The Department of Health would set regional budgets. These would then be distributed to family practitioner committees (which administer primary health care) and GPs on the basis of historical patterns and expected changes in local population or workload. A practice running a diabetes clinic, for example, would attract more patients requiring expensive drugs.

This formula marks a significant change from the first working paper which said that where a GP spent more than the average practice in his area, the budget would be set between the two figures to "bring downward pressure" on prescribing.

Pressure to curb the rise of the drugs bill, which now stands at £2 billion, will at first

only be applied to the 8-10 per cent of GPs who prescribe 25 per cent more than the area average, or 50 per cent more in one of six drug categories. These doctors will be urged to prescribe more generic drugs or fewer drugs if they cannot justify the excess.

Practitioners who continue to incur unjustifiable prescription costs may face financial penalties, although this sanction is expected to be applied only rarely. All GPs will be given regular print outs showing how their prescribing costs compare with the area average in six main therapeutic categories.

Officials expect many doctors to revise their practices in line with their peers. Doctors who underprescribe will be encouraged to spend more.

Although all GPs will be given indicative budgets they

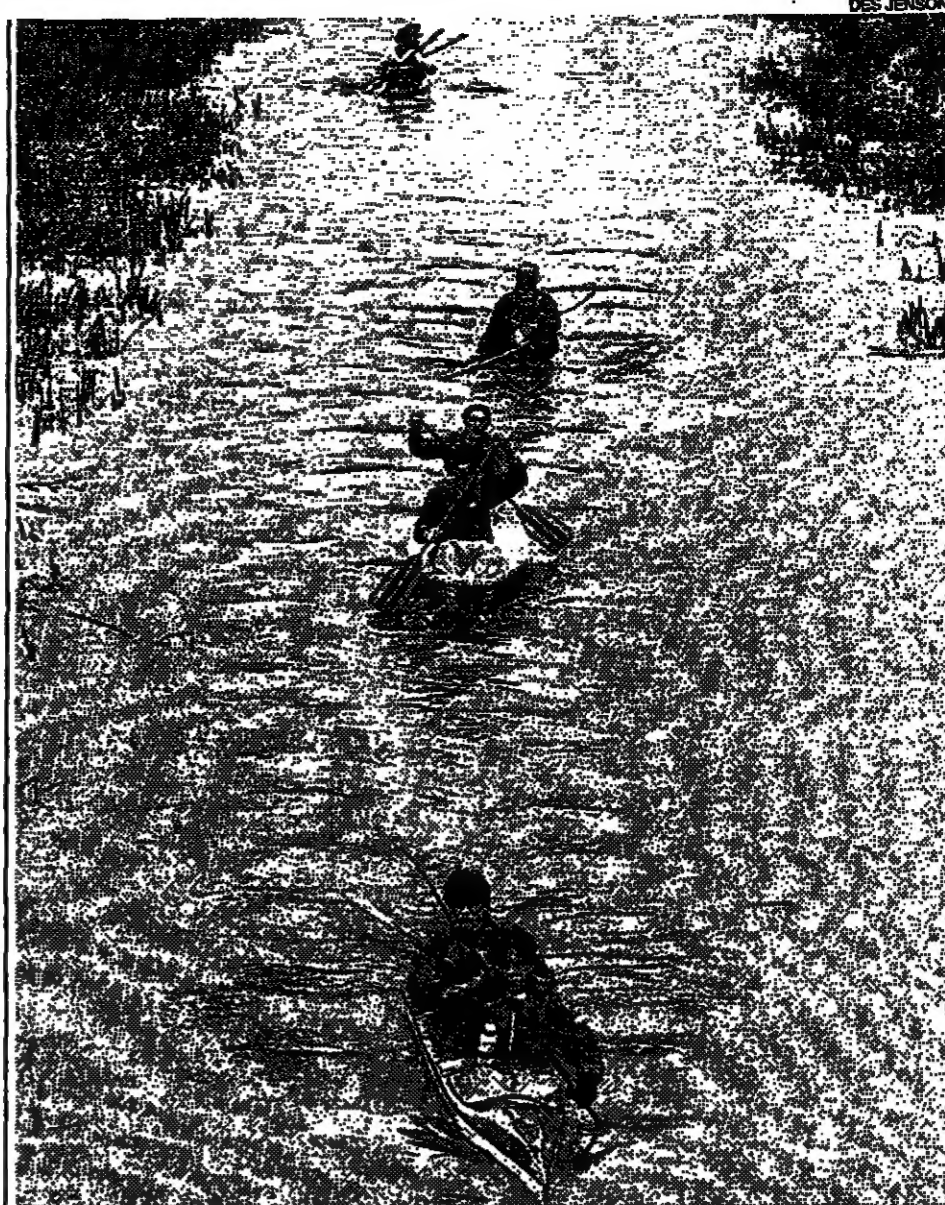
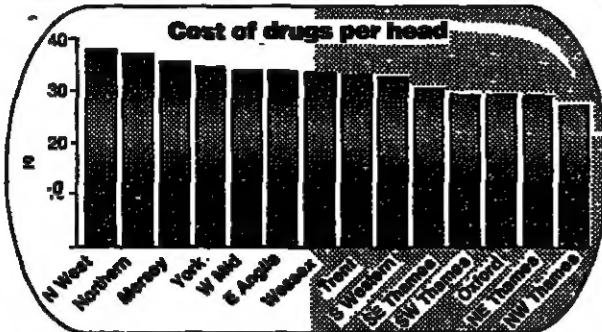
will be allowed to exceed them to cover medical need. In effect, an open-ended drugs budget will still operate.

The family practitioner committees will be able to appeal for extra funds from the region which can then ask for more cash from the Department of Health.

The department is confident, however, that a much firmer line of accountability, via the new general managers heading family practitioner committees and regional managers, will bring substantial savings. A failure to curb unnecessary drug spending is likely to be reflected in managers' pay.

Yet ministers are still undecided whether to retain financial incentives for family practitioner committees which spend less than their budgets. The White Paper said the committees would be allowed to keep 50 per cent of any saving to redistribute to primary health care areas. Some officials argue, however, that the incentive scheme will no longer work effectively as the budget is no longer cash limited.

Since the health service White Paper was published in January 1989, the Government has back-pedalled significantly on its plans to restrain the drugs bill.



Competitors setting off at the start of the Devizes to Westminster canoe race yesterday. The race lasts for three days with overnight stops for juniors and singles

## Operation started on the wrong leg

SANDWELL Health Authority, West Midlands, has announced changes in hospital procedure after surgeons began an operation on a patient's wrong leg.

Mr Frank Male, aged 73, was admitted to Sandwell General Hospital for a hip replacement operation after fracturing his right thigh bone but operating theatre staff were told the injury had been caused to his left leg.

The medical team were several minutes into the operation before the mistake was realized.

A spokesman for the authority said yesterday: "We have apologized to Mr Male and his family but this should not have happened in the first place." Mr Glyn James, director of planning at Sandwell, said: "We carried out an exercise to identify what happened and to see if any improvements could be made to prevent it from happening again. It was not a witch-hunt."

"Apparently somebody transcribed a wrong diagnosis on the casualty card and the mistake just continued right the way down the line."

"The mistake was realized by the surgeon in a matter of minutes of an incision being made. The position was quickly rectified and surgery on the correct leg carried out."

## Big variations in access to NHS infertility clinics

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

WIDE regional variations in the provision of National Health Service infertility clinics have been disclosed in a Labour Party survey.

Women living in the Oxford and West Midlands regional health authorities have a far better chance of referral to a specialist clinic than those in the North Western region, the survey finds.

The availability of free treatment for childless couples such as in vitro fertilization (IVF) and artificial insemination by donor (AID), is "patchy" and conceals widespread unmet need, the survey says.

For instance, the number of infertility clinics per one million women aged 15 to 44 ranges from 18.8 in Oxford to 8.8 in North West Thames, 6.2 in Scotland and only 1.2 in the

North Western region. Delays in obtaining health service appointments are common, with 58 per cent of women waiting 10 to 20 weeks and 9 per cent more than 20 weeks.

Ms Harriet Harman, an Opposition health spokesman, said that initial referrals per year to infertility clinics were running at 50,000.

Yet the number of couples who could benefit from IVF had been estimated at 275,000.

"While fertility services remain regarded as a luxury which cannot be afforded in a cash-starved NHS, the advances of modern science are available only to a limited few," she said.

"The knowledge that such services are available leads many couples to mortgaging their home and their future to pay for fertility treatment."

Ms Harman announced a series of proposed changes to the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill, which begins its Commons committee stages after the Easter recess.

They were aimed at implementing additional recommendations from the Warnock Committee, whose report led to the Bill, and ensuring "that all childless couples have access to infertility treatment on the NHS".

However, she gave no commitment to increased health service funding to support extra clinics.

She estimated that another 125 were needed to bring the whole country up to the levels of service provided by Oxford regional health authority.

The Labour amendments include a requirement for authority's to carry out an annual review of their infertility services and report to the Government on unmet need.

District health authorities would have to streamline their services so that women wanting infertility treatment were not lumped together with those who were pregnant or seeking an abortion.

The moves are likely to be resisted by ministers, who will argue that the supply of such services should be at the discretion of local health authorities and not dictated from the centre.

## 'Bedlam' in an operating theatre

OPERATING theatres can be as noisy as a motorway, with surgeons shouting across their patient at each other to make themselves heard above the din, two doctors disclose in *The Lancet* (Our Science Correspondent writes).

Their study of a serious operation recorded intermittent noises of up to 108 decibels, only slightly below the day-time limit at Heathrow airport.

Patients given local anaesthetics should be offered earplugs or headphones transmitting soothing music to make them feel less anxious, they suggest. The cacophony comes from ventilators, monitors, alarms, and mechanical and pneumatic tools.

The noise levels can lead to impaired concentration and performance and added stress among the surgeons and their staff.

Dr B Hodge and Mr J F Thompson, a surgeon, from the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, in Sydney, Australia, describe the bedlam in an article in this week's issue of *The Lancet*.

## Crater is linked to primeval disaster

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

TWO American scientists have suggested that a crater on an island near Cuba, made by the impact of a large asteroid or comet, was the cause of the catastrophe that other experts say led to a climatic upheaval and the extinction of the dinosaurs over 60 million years ago.

Dr Bruce Bohor, of the US Geological Survey, and Dr Russell Seitz, a geologist in Massachusetts, restrict their study to explaining the source of the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary, which is a thin layer of mineral that contains a proportion of the element iridium more evenly distributed around the world than is found in any other strata.

It is dispersed as if it had settled from an atmospheric cloud. If the theories connecting extinctions and impact craters are correct, the disaster arose from the molten particles

sprayed out as a celestial object hit the ground and formed the crater.

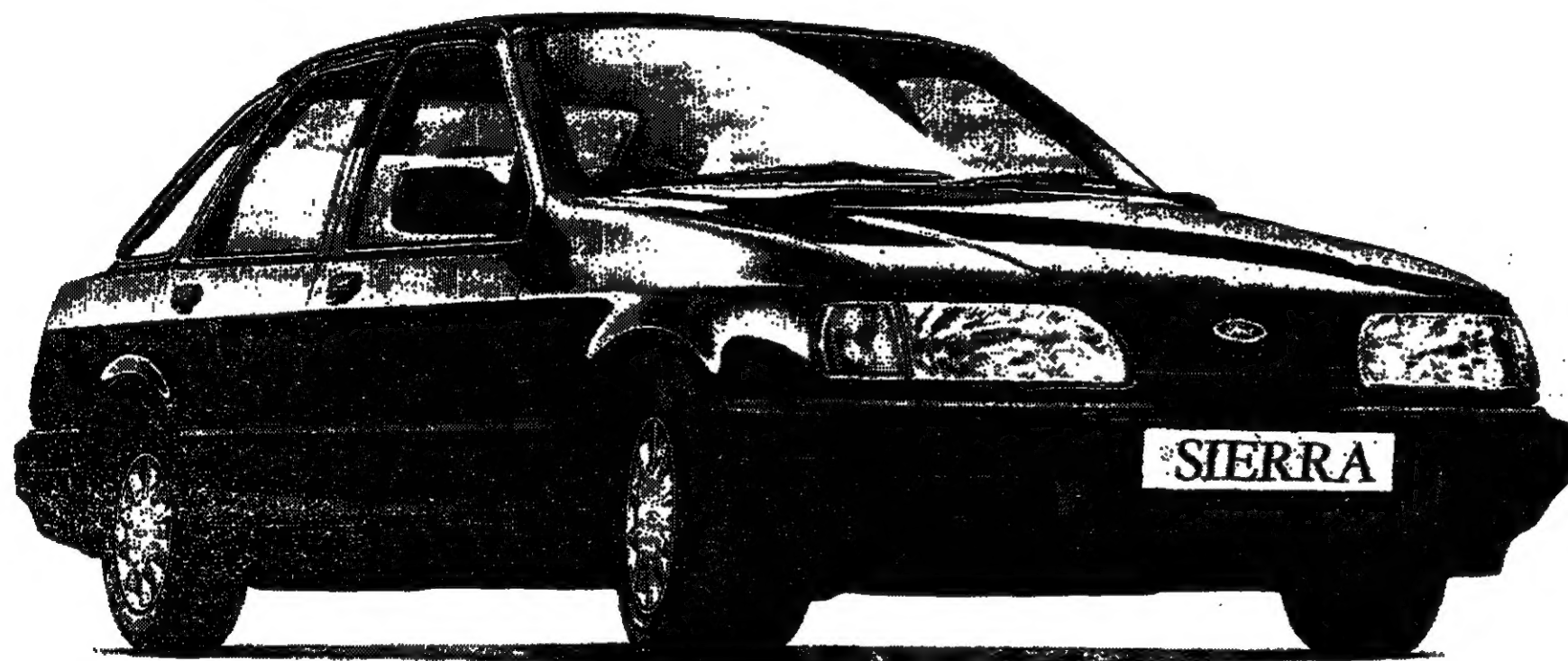
The material slowly surrounded the globe producing a veil of dust that excluded the sun's rays for centuries and changed the climate.

The dust slowly settled to form the layer containing the dispersed iridium that is used by scientists to mark the boundary between two geological epochs.

A report in *Nature* from the two American scientists describes the geochemistry of the boundary strata at a place known as the Big Boulder Bed, close to a crater to the south of Cuba.

They conclude from the exceptionally high iridium and other minerals it contains that it received a direct blanket of material from the impact, in addition the slower fallout as the global veil of dust settled.

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Charge for Credit	£359.82	£398.86	£432.82
Total Credit Price	£9584.82	£10623.86	£11527.82
<b>6.9% (13.4% APR)</b>			
Initial Payment (min. 33%)	£3044.25	£3374.25	£3661.35
36 Monthly Payments of	£207.23	£229.69	£249.23
Charge for Credit	£1279.53	£1418.09	£1538.63
Total Credit Price	£10504.53	£11643.09	£12633.63
<b>7.9% (15.1% APR)</b>			
Initial Payment (min. 20%)	£1845.00	£2045.00	£2219.00
48 Monthly Payments of	£202.34	£224.27	£243.35
Charge for Credit	£2232.32	£2584.96	£2804.80
Total Credit Price	£11577.32	£12809.96	£13869.80

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†Compared to maximum retail price prior to February 1st 1990.

The 1990 Sierras.





# Internal pressures stir Islamabad and Delhi sabre-rattling

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

INDIA accused Pakistan yesterday of moving troops and radar formations into a "war-like situation" — the latest outburst from a government under immense domestic pressure from right-wing Hindu fundamentalists.

Talk of war continues to escalate in both countries, fanned by Miss Benazir Bhutto's attempts to outflank her opponents in Pakistan and by the burgeoning confidence of Hindu hardliners in India.

Behind the rhetoric, however, there is a desperate and determined desire by Islamabad and Delhi to avoid conflict. Each side is talking tough because of domestic compulsions, with neither believing it will come to war.

Mr V.P. Singh, the Indian Prime Minister, normally a self-declared man with a quiet manner, has disappointed many admirers by his anti-Pakistan outbursts this week. His speech to Parliament allied some of his closest allies and advisers, who are now appealing to him to lower the temperature. There is every chance that he will do just that, having put his harsh words on the record.

Few people who know Mr Singh well thought he would have ever allowed himself to be manipulated so crudely by the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The BJP is the main force behind the hot-potch minority Government, to which it does not even belong.

For all Mr Singh's implied

accusations of direct, government-level Pakistan involvement in Kashmir, there is no evidence to support him. No journalist of international agency has ever located a training camp, although they are supposed to exist in profusion.

Indian intelligence has never produced even a photograph. Privately the United States and other governments have frequently challenged India to supply some hard information.

Substantial moral support, however, does exist. Miss Bhutto has set up a fund for private donations for "humanitarian" assistance for Kashmiri Muslims — money that arguably could assist and encourage the uprising.

Additionally, Kashmiri Muslim militants can expect a safe haven on the Pakistani side of the border, provided by private citizens.

Arms certainly do flow across the Kashmir dividing line. The region is mountainous, thickly wooded and crisscrossed by tracks passable only on foot. India, with all its superior manpower, has failed to seal it; it is unreasonable to expect Pakistan to do better.

Most weapons are bought in the arms bazaars of Peshawar — second-hand cast-offs from the Afghan war. They are plentiful and cheap.

Mr Singh was under many compulsions this week to sound tough. The BJP's national executive, for example, had just demanded "hot pur-

suit" of subversives across the 1947 Line of Control into Pakistan-controlled Kashmir — a demand Mr Singh has no intention of pursuing.

The Kashmir Valley is the best recruiting ground that Hindu fundamentalism could have dreamed of. The BJP has set up shop in Jammu, the Hindu-dominated second city of Kashmir, where tens of thousands of frightened Hindus are taking shelter from the Muslim uprising to the north. They live in appallingly equipped camps.

The BJP is undoubtedly the commanding force behind the Government's sweeping security operation in the valley. The walls of Delhi carry slogans that bear the ubiquitous lotus-flower symbol of the BJP, demanding "Save Hindus from slaughter in Kashmir". The BJP is projecting itself as the party of salvation for Kashmiri Hindus. It could easily destroy Mr Singh's feeble Government — a fact that makes it almost a shadow government.

It was no coincidence that the Prime Minister's anti-Pakistan outburst this week coincided with the introduction in the Lok Sabha (lower house) of the controversial new defence budget, in which the BJP had succeeded in pushing for increased spending. The speech created an atmosphere in which critics of the increase were silenced.

It is not an auspicious time for any Indian politician to be heard advocating military moderation.

Talk of war by the BJP and sister parties has whipped up the Hindu masses into a frenzy of outrage against Kashmiri Muslim separatists.

Hindu extremism is also being encouraged by Kashmiri Muslim extremists, who have started planting bombs in areas outside the valley where Hindus will be killed. They calculate that prospects for a breakthrough will be enhanced by emphasizing the Muslim-Hindu divide.

Kashmiri Muslims have little affinity with Indian or Pakistani Muslims, which is why most guerrilla groups are campaigning for independence from both countries.

## Assam rail attacks

Delhi BODO tribal militants de-molled two passenger trains with bombs in the north-east Indian state of Assam and killed at least 15 people, the United News of India agency reported yesterday.

It said more than 50 people were injured when two time bombs blew up railway tracks in Assam's Kokrajhar district on Thursday night.

The Press Trust of India put the toll at 13, but quoted official sources as saying it could go higher. At least 22

people were killed on Thursday by Bodo bombs. Earlier a bomb, which police said was detonated by remote control, blew up a truck, killing seven people and injuring 10.

Assam is one of the most important tea-growing areas of India; the world's biggest tea producer and exporter.

The bombings marked a new peak in the Bodo fight for their own state. In Calcutta, sources said a spate of killings and kidnappings by another militant group had created panic among Assam growers.

## Colombia reinforces drug city

Medellin — Colombia is sending police and army reinforcements here after up to 21 people were killed by a car bomb blamed on drug traffickers this week.

Three hundred extra policemen had already been sent to Medellin, where 26 officers have been murdered in two weeks. More than 240 people have been killed since the Government cracked down on drug cartels last August and drug leaders declared war on the state. (Reuters)

## Bombers attack tourist centre

Ajaccio, Corsica — A restaurant and several boutiques in a tourist complex were wrecked by bombs early yesterday in what appeared to be the latest in a series of attacks by Corsican separatists.

Police said a caller claimed responsibility on behalf of a wing of the Corsican National Liberation Front. (AP)

## Death penalty

Peking — Nine Chinese in Canton have been executed for gun-running, robbery and murder, and four men in Shanghai were sentenced to death for corruption. Sentence is carried out with a bullet to the back of the head. (Reuters)

## Poll setback

Wellington — New Zealand's opposition National Party has withdrawn its lead over the Labour Government to 27 points, according to an opinion poll yesterday. Elections are due by October. (Reuters)

## Cinema re-run

Paris — The French Government is to pay for the renovation of the Saint Michel cinema, damaged by arsonists who objected to the screening of *The Last Temptation of Christ* in 1988. (AP)

## Bangladesh aid

Dhaka — Bangladesh is expecting \$275 million (£167 million) from the World Bank to salvage its ailing economy. (Reuters)

## Algeria quake

Algiers — An earthquake registering 5.4 on the Richter scale hit Algeria on Thursday. There were no reports of casualties. (Reuters)

## Bombay hotel inferno



FLAMES pouring from the windows of the 36-storey Oberoi Towers, Bombay's biggest hotel with 950 rooms, after fire broke out on the ground floor and spread to upper levels through service ducts. All the 115 foreign tourists and local businessmen staying at the hotel were evacuated before dawn yesterday and police said that there had been no casualties except for two firemen who were slightly hurt. Guests ran out carrying their luggage, some dressed only in their underclothes. Pakistan International Airlines, Air Canada and the local Syndicate Bank have offices on the ground floor. (AFP)

## Li Peng visit will affirm new links with Moscow

Peking — CHINA is to complete an exchange of visits that marks the end of decades of hostility between Peking and Moscow and the gradual warming of political and economic relations.

Mr Li Peng, the Prime Minister, will visit the Soviet Union from April 23 to 26, becoming the first Chinese head of government to travel to Moscow since 1964. He will be returning a visit by President Gorbachev last May, the first trip by a Soviet leader to Peking in three decades.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said yesterday that Mr Li "will have an extensive and in-depth exchange of views with Soviet leaders on the bilateral relations and major international issues of common concern".

Soviet sources said Mr Li will meet twice with Mr Gorbachev in Moscow and will make a one-day trip to Kiev. They said it was likely the two leaders would sign an agreement to promote bilateral trade and an accord of general principles on easing military tensions along their 4,300-mile common border.

China and the Soviet Union split over ideological differences around 1960, and fought a brief border war in 1969. Relations have steadily improved since the mid-1980s when Mr Gorbachev came to power, particularly after he withdrew Soviet forces from Afghanistan and pledged to reduce Soviet military forces in Asia.

However, China has emphasized that it will never return to the close relations with the Soviet Union it had

in the 1950s. Chinese leaders, who have returned to hardline Marxism since the suppression of the pro-democracy movement last year, have distanced themselves from the democratic reforms taking place in the Soviet Union and East Europe.

Although China has not publicly commented on such actions as the Soviet Communist Party's renunciation of its monopoly of power, internal documents reportedly have branded Mr Gorbachev a revisionist.

Mr Li, who studied electrical engineering in the Soviet Union in the 1950s, is an advocate of traditional Soviet-style central planning and a firm emphasis on heavy industry. (AP)

Minority nationalists say Peking neglects their needs, leaving them in poverty. Such areas were devastated during the Cultural Revolution, and say they are still underfunded. The Inner Mongolia campaign may be an attempt to pacify the grievances of the region.

As nationalism grows in the Soviet Central Asian republics and in Mongolia, China is becoming increasingly concerned about the minority areas within its boundaries which border the volatile areas.

Yesterday Mongolia's largest opposition party, the Mongolian Democratic Party, announced that it had joined forces with two other groups in an attempt to unify opposition to the Communist Party.

Opposition leaders believe they have a better chance of success in July's elections if they join forces.



Mr Li Expected to sign a bilateral trade agreement

## Pilgrims crowd into Jerusalem despite tension

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

WITH tensions running high over an attempt by Jewish settlers to move into the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, thousands of European and American pilgrims yesterday packed its narrow streets to make the annual procession along the Via Dolorosa, the route traditionally believed to have been taken by Christ from the scene of his trial to Golgotha, the hill on which he was crucified.

At the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a largely Crusader reconstruction of the church built by the Roman Emperor Constantine over Golgotha and the nearby holy tomb, the pilgrims hoisted wooden crosses on their shoulders and held Good Friday services under the eye of hundreds of Israeli border policemen.

Round the corner, at the former Greek Orthodox hostel now occupied by the Jewish settlers, bearded and well-armed young men in skullcaps muttered into two-way radios, conferred with the Israeli riot police guarding the entrance, and handed out coffee in plastic mugs to reporters.

The violence has dismayed Israeli officials at a time when Western tourists are beginning to return to Israel in greater numbers. The area was calm yesterday, after Israeli courts had given the settlers the right to stay for a further four days. But Mr Yaakov Turner, the Police Commissioner, said he expected further unrest.

The violence erupted on Thursday when police used tear gas to disperse a crowd of Christian priests and Arab youths demanding the eviction of the settlers. Yesterday Mr Yehuda Pinsky, a settler with an American accent, insisted that the newcomers were merely reoccupying buildings that had been in Jewish hands until 1936.

An Israeli court ruled yesterday that the Greek Orthodox Church was correct in claiming that the Armenian team, who "sold" the 72-room hostel had no right to do so. The settlers have appealed to the Supreme Court against this eviction order, and a ruling is expected on Tuesday at the end of the Jewish Passover festival. Mr Pinsky said the settlers would leave if ordered by the highest legal authority. "We are Zionists but not militants", he declared.

None the less, the rambling, run-down premises were a hive of activity yesterday as the settlers, clearly expecting a lengthy stay, cleaned, scrubbed and installed telephones, play areas and kitchen cupboards. They had the support of Rabbi Zeev Nissim, an

Orthodox Jewish city councillor, who criticized Mr Teddy Kollek, the mayor, for asking the settlers to leave. "Jews have the right to live anywhere in the Holy Land," Mr Nissim said.

As he spoke, settler families ignored both the hostile Arab crowd and the mildly curious mass of Christian visitors and wheeled babies in pushchairs into the surrounding medieval streets in an attempt to maintain an air of normality.

Just beyond the Via Dolorosa, most pilgrims seem determined not to let the clashes spoil their delight at being in the Holy city for Easter. Many were making the trip of a lifetime.

"If you never went to places where there was trouble, you would never go anywhere," Mr Ron Coles, from Boreham, near Northampton, said. His wife, Mary, said her father had served under Allenby in the British forces which captured Palestine from the Turks in 1917, so for her this was a "double pilgrimage".

Had she been aware of the violence associated with the Palestinian uprising? "Yes, but we came anyway. On the way here an Israeli soldier seemed to point his gun straight at me. I went up to him and said 'Young man, you look far too nice to be a soldier.' He had the grace to look sheepish."

Yesterday Mr Dorit Beinisch, the public prosecutor, announced that policemen who used "unjustified force" at a peace march around the walls of the Old City last Christmas would be prosecuted. Seventy people, including peace activists from Europe, were injured during the police action, which included the firing of rubber bullets and tear gas. Police said at the time that Arabs taking part in the demonstration had raised the banned flag of the Palestine Liberation Organization and had thrown stones, but eye-witnesses said the march had been entirely peaceful until the police intervened.

Rabbi reconsiders: An Orthodox religious member of the Knesset who this week said he would resign rather than support a new Labour government under Mr Shimon Peres yesterday appeared to waver.

Rabbi Avraham Verdiger, a member of the ultra-religious Agudat Israel party, said he would reconsider his resignation after "calls and demands from all sectors of the Israeli public". Religious party sources said that he would back Mr Peres "if it looks as if Peres has a real chance of becoming Prime Minister".

## Egypt deplores fast backsliders

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

EGYPTIANS consume more during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan than in the other 11 months of the year combined.

Egyptian newspapers have seized on these new statistics to deplore the gluttony and sloth that have increasingly come to dominate the period supposed to be the most spiritual on the Islamic calendar.

The Egyptian papers are full of cartoons of grunting food tables which now dominate most households in the hours between sunset and sunrise when eating is permitted. In many Muslim countries, the stampede to stock larders has pushed prices to levels beyond the reach of ordinary pockets.

The semi-official Egyptian Mail complains that, in stark contrast to the principle of identifying with the sufferings of the poor and needy that underlies the fast, precepts

"unswervingly observed" by early Muslims, "the sole preoccupation of almost every Egyptian household at the moment is how to amass the greatest quantity of food at the table for iftar (breakfast) when about 13 hours of fasting is broken".

Echoing criticism voiced by theologians, but ignored by the mass of the public, the Cairo weekly cites obesity and related diseases in claiming, "The enormous amounts of food consumed during the holy month of Ramadan take their unmistakable toll on the Egyptians' well-being."

In practice, the month of Ramadan, which began in Egypt when a crescent moon was spotted on March 28, and most other Arab countries 24 hours earlier, has become a time when struggling economies come closer to collapse due to low productivity and unscrupulous middlemen thrive from price rises.

In the United Arab Emirates, the daily *Al-Bayan* discovered that civil servants and students were using Ramadan as an excuse to desert offices and schools.

In the Gulf states, expatriates are warned that they will lose their work permits if they eat, drink or smoke in public during fasting hours. Muslim transgressors face imprisonment, fines and flogging.

In Algeria, the Ramadan phenomenon of spiralling prices has been matched by a wave of excesses by Islamic fundamentalists waging an increasingly violent campaign to get the country to adopt strict Sharia law.

Fruit and vegetable prices in Algiers doubled on the eve of the fast, leading to mobs of protesters gathering at the central market.

Targets for the zealots, two months before the first multi-party elections since independence in 1962, in which the Islamic National Front is a leading contestant, include restaurants and discotheques in Algiers that remain open during Ramadan.

## Reformers sue for peace on litigation battlefield

From Charles Bremner, New York

IT TAKES a creative lawyer to come up with a suit novel enough to raise eyebrows in America, where litigation has long ranked close to life and liberty among the inalienable rights.

But a clutch of recent cases have so stretched credibility, and even metaphysics, that they have set reformers on the warpath and raised fears for the future of whole industries and professions, particularly the medical one.

At the heart of the trouble lies the growing propensity of juries to award multi-million-dollar damages for grievances that range from the far-fetched to the frivolous.

Take the case of Mrs Kirsten Madsen, a Nashville woman who brought suit last week against the hospital where she recently gave birth. She is claiming \$4 million (£2.4 million) for the distress caused to her by the fact that hospital staff nicknamed her "newborn baby" "Sunshine". They came up with the name because the child's skin had

been temporarily dyed blue — the colour of the Smurf cartoon characters — in a test performed on the mother shortly before labour.

Mr Gordon Crovitz, a legal commentator, said: "This case suggests tort law has deteriorated so far that no one can know if a case is absurd or serious." Even the lawyers who take on such weird suits, in the hope that they will pocket hefty contingency fees, were astonished by how much they could get away with.

In the past month, a New York jury awarded a mugging more than \$1 million compensation for suffering inflicted by a policeman, who wounded him while the mugger was strangling and robbing an old man.

In Delaware, a shopping centre was ordered to pay undisclosed millions after a jury blamed it for failing to protect customers from a mad woman who walked in and shot 10 people in a rampage in 1985.

The Ford Motor Company was ordered last week to pay \$6 million to a couple whose child was killed in a 1988 accident because it had failed

to install shoulder seatbelts in the rear seat. Ford had not been required by law to fit the belts.

Similar negligence suits by the bereaved and injured have crippled the US light aircraft business, raised prices in every industry and are being blamed for the failure of American companies to market modern contraceptive techniques already common in Europe.

Now the surge of malpractice litigation has taken a new turn with the invention of a novel doctrine: the right not to be born. Doctors are being sued successfully by parents who charge that they "inflicted wrongful life" by failing to detect problems in pregnancy that led to the birth of a handicapped child.

Several states have already enacted laws to head off a flood of expected "wrongful birth" suits by children against their parents.

Juries are also breaking records with damages for the death of children, often in incidents where common sense would attach no blame. A Florida driver was ordered to pay \$2

million to the parents of a girl whom he hit after she darted onto busy traffic against a traffic light.

Last month the *National Journal of Law* set out the formula for winning the sympathy of juries: "Standard procedure includes the testimony of Scout leaders, stacks of Valentines and vacation snapshots," it advised. "Telling a jury that the parents do not seek sympathy and cannot be recompensed for the tearful hours has become *de rigueur*." Grisly videotapes of the deceased also helped, it said.

Perhaps the most novel of all the new theories is now being tested in a Los Angeles court. There, Mr John Moore is suing a surgeon and a researcher for the "theft" of part of his body — his cancerous spleen. He claims they used cells from his organ, removed in 1976, in the development of a new cancer drug. Mr Moore is seeking a big slice of the estimated \$3 billion he estimates the drug will earn on the market.

The movement for reform is gathering pace, however. Mr Robert



# Confession lifts grim shadow

From a Correspondent, Warsaw

FOR Mrs Zofia Szostek, aged 63, whose father died in what the world now knows as the Katyn massacre, the Soviet Union's decision yesterday finally to admit culpability is too little, too late.

Captain Andrzej Drozd was ordered to the Polish eastern front three days after Germany declared war on Poland on September 1. The Soviet Union attacked from the east on September 17. He was captured by the Russians in the early days of the war and was last seen in the autumn by a friend's wife in a transport train heading east.

"At the railway station he gave me his wedding ring and all the money he had to give to us," said Mrs Szostek. "Our mother died before the war, so three daughters were left. I was 12 then, my younger sister was six and the oldest was 16."

She and her sisters received three postcards from her father. "On the first postcard, I remember he wrote 'I am interned in a camp in Starobielsk'. Starobielsk was one of three camps from which 15,000 Polish officers disappeared in the spring of 1940, never to be heard from again.

In April, 1943, when the area was in German hands after their declaration of war on the Soviet Union, the Germans exhumed the bodies of some 4,500 Polish officers, most of them with hands tied with rope or barbed wire behind their backs and each shot in the back of the head with a single bullet.

Most of those officers were later determined to have come from the Kozielec camp. The fates of those at the Starobielsk and Ostaszkow camps are still unknown.

"There were no more postcards in April or after that. We were waiting for father's return," Mrs Szostek said. "His last words to us, when he said farewell on September 4, were 'Poland, Poland, what is happening to you?'"

Mrs Szostek, a retired architect, said: "We are owed a moral compensation. We do not want a trial or death sentences for the murderers — but perhaps the other side should come up with some initiative, like a monument or a beautiful cemetery."

She said she was aware that not much could be done by the Polish Government in the years after Katyn — and even

the Polish people themselves were afraid to talk about it.

"Just after the war, when I was a student, I wrote an application for a scholarship. I wrote I was an orphan, that I had lost my parents. But I only wrote my father was in the Polish Army. I wrote 'He was lost in the war.' I never wrote he was lost in the Soviet Union. We were afraid."

After 1980, she said, "we started to speak openly about it, and to put up the first monuments".

Following several years of unofficial commemorations on April 3, the anniversary of the beginning of the killings, the communist Government at last bowed to pressure and allowed a large granite monument to be erected to their memory in Powazki military cemetery.

But it outraged Poles because the inscription said the officers were "murdered by the Nazis" — the official Soviet line. A few years ago the inscription was rubbed out, as was the one at the Katyn site itself in the Soviet Union earlier this year.

Asked whether this could mean a change in Soviet-Polish relations, she said: "I have hope, but the past has taught us to be careful... We count on them telling us where are the graves of the others killed, so we will be able to go to those graves and somebody will show us, 'this is the place'. But my hopes for that are very, very slim."

In Gdansk, Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, said: "I was expecting this. This is a kind of procrastination... It is good when the murderers confess their crime. But the murderers must remember that this is only half of the problem." He said the question of compensation must also be discussed.

Polish radio said: "Thousands of Poles have waited for this information for 47 years."

After the official admission in Moscow by Tass, Mr Mikolaj Kozakiewicz, the Sejm Speaker, said: "This is the recognition by the Soviet Union... of a truth known in Poland for many years... This truth... is an act of courage in taking the moral responsibility for what has happened. I think that this act of courage will have a positive effect on the Polish-Soviet relations on which Katyn has cast a shadow."



Light in the darkness: A relative of a Polish officer killed in 1940 lights a memorial candle at Katyn last October

## Russia's long road to the truth

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow

THE Russians' admission of guilt for the Katyn massacre is the culmination of a three-year investigation undertaken by a joint commission of Polish and Soviet historians.

Yesterday's admission by the Soviet news agency Tass said: "Just recently, Soviet archive workers and historians discovered some documents concerning Polish servicemen who were kept in the Kozielec, Starobielsk and Ostaszkow camps by the NKVD security police."

"It follows from these documents that in April-May, 1940, 394 of the 15,000 or so Polish officers kept in the three camps were transferred to the Gryzovetsk camp. The larger part, however, were turned over to the NKVD (People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs) administrations in the Smolensk, Voroshilovgrad and Kalinin regions and never mentioned in NKVD statistical accounts since. The discovered archival material puts direct responsibility for the

atrocities in the Katyn forest on Beria, Merkulov and their henchmen."

The Russians have been edging steadily closer to this admission for several years, but have clearly found it too shameful to spell out officially until now. It has been one of the main demands of the new Polish Government headed by Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

Three weeks ago *Moscow News*, a radical weekly paper, said that the Poles were almost certainly killed by Soviet forces, and named the officials and NKVD officers responsible.

Miss Natalya Lebedeva, an historian, told the paper that 15,000 of more than 130,000 Poles captured after the Soviet-German division of Poland in 1939 disappeared a year later when the Soviet military authorities cleared out the camps where the Poles were held, probably to make room for a large influx of prisoners expected after the annexation of the three Baltic states.

She said that the archives did not contain any actual order to shoot the men but "proved irrefutably" that the

men were turned over to the NKVD, and that 15,131 people "disappeared into nowhere".

The Russians may have waited this long to make the admission because one of the chief exponents of the lie that the Nazis killed the men was Andrei Gromyko, the former Foreign Minister, who retired with honour as President in 1988 and died last year.

For years the Russians went to elaborate lengths to prevent and confuse any discussion of Katyn. They erected a moving memorial to men, women and children massacred by the Nazis in a village in Belorussia with the conveniently similar name of Khatyn.

In the past three years, other falsifications of history have been revealed under President Gorbachev's policy of *glasnost*, including the secret protocols to the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact, the show trials and pre-war purges, the extent of the Gulag labour camps, the number of people killed by Stalin, and the induced famine in the Ukraine during collectivization of agriculture.

## Soviet guilt highlights inertia by UK

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

THE Soviet admission of guilt for the Katyn massacre has underlined the weakness shown by successive British governments which failed to accuse Moscow of the killings.

The Government has possessed strong evidence since 1944 that it was the Russians, not the Germans who were originally blamed, who killed 15,000 Polish officers, yet allowed the British public to believe there was some doubt about it.

The Foreign Office said there was no proof, disregarding both its own files and American evidence, while Church of England authorities in London objected to the construction of a memorial to the victims. The Soviet Embassy in London had said it would regard a memorial as "provocative". In 1976, when sympathizers of the Polish widows circumvented the objections and built a memorial, the Government boycotted the unveiling.

No one did more to awaken the British to their leaders' lack of courage than Mr Louis FitzGibbon, a former General Secretary of the British Council for Aid to Refugees, which later became the British Refugee Council.

He discovered in 1969 that there were large numbers of widows in London whose husbands had disappeared at Katyn. It prompted him to write three books on the massacre and hundreds of angry letters to people in authority. In copies shown to *The Times* he has barked — the word is not too strong — at the Foreign Office for its timidity.

In a letter last July he produced a report of a US congressional committee investigation into the massacre in 1952. The investigation concluded: "This committee unanimously agrees that (the) evidence... proves conclusively and irrevocably the Soviet NKVD (People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs) committed the massacre of Polish Army officers in the Katyn forest... not later than the spring of 1940".

He pointed out to the Foreign Office: "Here we have a situation wherein the USA condemns the USSR for

Katyn in 1952, while the UK prevaricates in 1989 — some 37 years later."

Recently the Government has sounded a little less feeble, though still not robust. Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said in reply to a Commons question on March 19: "There is substantial circumstantial evidence pointing to Soviet responsibility for the Katyn massacre. We urge the Soviet authorities to help establish the facts once and for all."

Mr FitzGibbon has had to wait to the age of 75 to see the fruition of 20 years' work. He said yesterday: "On this Good Friday, this day of Golgotha, may forgiveness be granted to those who ran from the truth and tried to cover up these frightful crimes — they will know who they are."

He has not forgiven the Church for having blocked the construction of a 23ft black granite obelisk in Chelsea to commemorate the massacre. The site, on a disused burial ground, had been offered by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, but the Parochial Church Council objected.

It said it wanted the memorial to be smaller and further from the church "so as to avoid provoking hostility". However, Mr FitzGibbon believes its main concern stemmed from the proposed wording which identifies the date of the massacre as 1940, which meant it could only have been committed by the Russians.

*The Times* had reported that the Soviet Embassy had written to Kensington and Chelsea council asking it to find a way to prevent the erection of the memorial.

A Whitehall source said yesterday that the facts had been assumed for a long time; what had been needed was an act of admission by the Soviet Union, as a form of catharsis. Professor Edward Szczepanik, Prime Minister of the Polish government-in-exile in London, said the admission of guilt was only a first step and should be followed by an apology, compensation for the families, and the punishment of those who were responsible.

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# Estonia distances itself further from Moscow rule

From Anatol Lieven, Tallinn

UNDER the cover of a "step by step" approach to independence, the new government of the tiny Baltic republic of Estonia is carrying out a series of measures which are likely to be seen in Moscow as quite as menacing as the Lithuanian declaration of independence.

The parliament's abolition of Soviet military service for Estonians, and its replacement with an "alternative service" inside Estonia, is designed to create an independent police force and to prepare the republic for a possible general strike by Russian workers against independence.

On Wednesday the Estonian supreme soviet passed the first in a series of measures cancelling Soviet conscription. The municipal council, which is responsible for registering young men for conscription, have been ordered instead to set up commissions to recruit them for the alternative service.

The Estonian-majority councils have been ordered to those of the three largest towns in Russian-dominated north-eastern Estonia have declared their determination to go on obeying Soviet laws.

Yesterday Tallinn City Council's commission for alternative service examined applicants in the city's neo-Gothic town hall. Outside, pallid youths squatted on the floor, many of them registering in advance for future drafts.

The commission only began work this week, but already more than 340 youths have registered, about 70 from this year's draft, out of around 800 due to go from Tallinn.

As yet, there has been no sign either here or in Lithuania of a Soviet attempt to conscript men by force.

Only about 5 per cent of those coming in have been from Estonia's 39 per cent Russian-speaking population, and two of these came back later to withdraw their papers.

Mr Mart Kivits, a commission member, said that at the Marine College in Tallinn, Soviet officers had told the boys that if they refused to go to the armed forces now and later told to take higher

education elsewhere in the Soviet Union, they would still be made to serve their full term.

The commission sends the name and military card of every youth registered with it to the Army, giving plenty of opportunities for official and social pressure to be applied.

The youths who came before the commission yesterday were being encouraged to join the auxiliary police. So far the commission has recruited 110 of the 300 it says it needs, but it expects several to drop out again if they gain entrance to university this summer.

The present Estonian police force is overwhelmingly Russian and, like Russian policemen in Vilnius, can be expected to obey Moscow's orders in the event of trouble.

Fears of Soviet loyalist movements here launching a campaign of civil disobedience against independence have led to the replacement of the Russian police commander in Tallinn with an Estonian officer, Mr Raik Saar.

The new force is to be an extension of the Defence League, a volunteer force formed over the past few months in response to the feeling among Estonians that the Soviet police were refusing to help Estonians in difficulties. Its name is taken from the territorial army of the inter-war republic, and it is clearly also intended to serve as a militia in case of national difficulties, possibly as a border force - in which it might be joined by the growing number of Estonian shooting clubs.

The new police are to be given basic training by officers picked from the existing force, and will be armed with police pistols, which may cause some alarm in the Russian population. Those youths not selected for the police are being sent to a variety of other jobs. One asked to work in a hospital, but found himself cast instead in the role of assistant engine driver.

Estonian councils are also forming their own municipal police, almost exclusively Estonian, in ethnic com-

position, to handle public order, street patrols and traffic offences but not detective work. Lieutenant-Colonel Saar said that it is planned to recruit 500 of these for Tallinn, which would make 800 new police in all against the 1,200 in the regular police force.

He said: "I do not think that there will be national difficulties within my police force, because our common business is fighting crime."

Alternative service will last 2½ years, six months longer than in the Soviet Army. Apart from patriotic motives, however, there is little doubt who would get the better bargain.

One of the commission members, Mrs Kira Kahu, said five Estonians had died in the Soviet Army in the past three months. About 80 Estonians have deserted the Army this year.

Some soldiers and former soldiers in the supreme soviet here were this week sounding increasingly frustrated and traditional in their rhetoric.

Retired Colonel Nikolai Akshutin declared: "If we destroy the unity of the Soviet Army, it weakens us against enemies from the West and divisive forces within."

He added: "Perestroika does not free us from our duty" - a remark which may be directed towards Moscow as well as to the Estonian parliament.

Political symbol: The "Baltic Market" announced in Vilnius on Thursday by the prime ministers of the three Baltic republics is likely to remain for some time more of a political symbol than an economic programme.

Officials in Tallinn this week have been vague about the details of steps to be taken towards giving reality to this concept.

At present, virtually all trade between the republics is organized and paid for via Moscow.

One effect of this centralization and of Soviet rule in general has been to deprive the Baltic governments of accurate and reliable information and statistics about their own economic position.



The face of democracy: Electoral posters of Dr. Franjo Tudjman, who is the leader of the front-running Croatian Democratic Union, lining the streets of Zagreb in Yugoslavia yesterday in preparation for the first free multi-party parliamentary elections to be held in Croatia since 1945

## Genscher under pressure

From Girard Stiecher, Bonn

WEST German politicians yesterday called for early talks with East Germany's new Government to plot the course of reunification.

Leaders in East Berlin said they were eager for talks, but made it clear they plan to retain some control over the timetable and the agenda.

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, said he wanted to meet soon with Herr Markus Meckel, his new East German counterpart, to lay the foundations for later "two plus four" negotiations between the two German Governments and the four Allied powers.

Herr Genscher, in an interview with Cologne's *Express* newspaper, again urged that those talks be held as quickly as possible.

Herr Meckel, newly installed as Foreign Minister after a broad coalition Government was formed in East Berlin on Thursday, appears to have other priorities. He said it was likely his first official visit abroad would be to Poland.

Herr Meckel, leader of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), said a meeting with Soviet officials in East Berlin was also planned within the next few days. However, he said he looked forward to meeting Herr Genscher soon.

The East German *Volkswagen* voted on Thursday to recognize the inviolability of Poland's post-war border.

There are also signs that the conservative-led Government in East Berlin may turn out to be a tougher bargaining partner than West German officials had expected.

The Government of Herr Lothar de Maizière, the Prime Minister, has demanded that many social benefits that East Germans enjoy be retained, including housing and employment guarantees.

Herr de Maizière, the leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), has already begun distancing himself from Herr Kohl. Referring to the timetable for reunification, he said: "What matters is how it is done and not when."

Officials said yesterday that negotiations between Bonn and East Berlin would begin next week on a treaty to establish economic and social union by summer.

## Berlin museum catalogues the makings of modern revolution

From Anne McElroy, East Berlin

THE reign of Herr Erich Honecker, his wearisome slogan "everything for the good of the people" and the assorted propaganda tracts of the Central Committee, were officially relegated to the past this week as East Berlin's Museum of German History unveiled its latest chapter.

The Latin proverb that times change and we change with them might well be the banner hung over the whole of Eastern Europe these days as it flings off its embarrassing past, but in few places do they change with quite such bewildering rapidity as within the sombre walls of the eighteenth-century former barracks on the sweeping Unter den Linden.

The museum, which formerly propagated the view that history ended with the "triumph of socialism", is now cataloguing the revolutionary days of last November in an exhibition organized by opposition groups to commemorate the weeks that

changed East Germany. Queues of curious visitors enter through a reconstructed no man's land, past an authentic section of the Berlin Wall, sprayed with the message: "Walled in for 28 years".

Inside, the hall is draped with the banners and slogans which had filled the streets of Leipzig and Berlin - "Where everyone thinks the same, no one is thinking very much", and a grotesque cartoon of the grinning former leader, Herr Erich Honecker, with the caption "Grandmother, why are your teeth so big?"

The exhibition was intended as the museum's contribution to the 40th anniversary celebrations, but had to be closed shortly after it opened in October.

Since then, the historians have been peeling away the layers of sycophancy. Portraits of the former Politburo hang, like outside prison identity photos, in front of very different banners of congratulation traditionally issued by the

Communist Party to itself. Lovingly preserved on a giant red banner are the philosophical ponderings of the trade union leader, Herr Harry Tisch: "Great tasks mobilize great deeds when their full significance is realized and they are tackled with organization."

Herr Tisch is awaiting trial for corruption.

The Daygo portrait of Herr Honecker, which has disappeared from every office in the country, smiles wanly over the sea of protest banners. His political contribution to dialogue is recorded in a series of identical pictures of him receiving smiling delegations of women, trade unionists and farmers which all end in "universal agreement".

The East German visitors find the whole business unsettling. "It is all over, everything," said one middle-aged woman, shaking her head in disbelief as she surveyed the preserved uniform of the Workers' Militia, formed after

the uprising of 1953 and which narrowly missed being employed again in 1989.

The entry to the museum's post-1949 section is barred - "to make some additions," says the attendant. This is a shame, as the manner of presentation of history in this section was itself a piece of East Germany's own history, with its lurching course of rehabilitations and air brushings.

Here thousands of school-children learnt that Nazism was "sustained by the reactionary forces of British and American monopoly capital" and that the victory of the Soviet Union established a "hitherto unknown order of socialism in an unjust world".

In the visitors' book, the makers of history record their obituaries for a state. One signed simply "A demonstration says: 'Forty years as a state'." Beneath, an anonymous apology: "Forgive us; we believed the lies."

## Church battle sours new Soviet religious freedom

From Michael Binyan, Moscow

AS RUSSIANS prepare to celebrate Easter in unprecedented numbers, a row has erupted between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Ukraine over their occupation of churches forcibly removed from Ukraine congregations by Stalin in 1946.

A spokesman for the Russian Orthodox patriarchate appeared on prime-time television on Thursday with a forceful appeal to President Gorbachev to eject the Ukrainian Eastern Rite Catholics from churches, including St. George's Cathedral in Lvov, handed back to them last week. The first Eastern Rite services are due to be held in St. George's today.

The spokesman accused local authorities in western Ukraine, many of them radical nationalists recently elected, of promoting violence and illegality. He said Orthodox believers would be forced to pray on the streets.

The delicate issue of how to reverse Stalin's dissolution of

the Ukraine Church, a punishment for alleged collaboration with the Nazis during the Second World War, has been referred to a commission set up by the Moscow patriarch and the Pope, but negotiations have been deadlocked. The Holy Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church has accused local authorities of violating the agreement not to seize churches and the republican government to help heal "the deep religious wound".

The quarrel has overshadowed what should otherwise be a joyful Easter, after the removal of many restrictions on religion. Some 3,500 churches are to be allowed to reopen, though many are dilapidated.

A new law guaranteeing freedom of conscience and religious organizations is going through the Supreme Soviet. It also aims to stop local Communist Party intimidation of religious communities, reinforcing punishments for anti-religious activities.

and attempting to give reality to earlier constitutional guarantees of religious freedom.

Church bells are now rung before services in many places, including Novodevichy, an ancient monastery in central Moscow. Religious figures appear on television, and Soviet television aired a discussion on Thursday of religion, morality and the influence of the Church. Church music is performed at concerts, and public officials quote from the Bible.

Metropolitan Pitirim, a senior bishop in the Moscow patriarchate, is a member of the Supreme Soviet and is widely tipped as a possible successor to Patriarch Pimen, the Orthodox Church leader.

Meanwhile, Soviet citizens have been scouring the shops for ingredients of the typical Easter cake, and thousands will go out to cemeteries this weekend to observe memorial gatherings and clean up the graves. They are expected to pack the churches in Moscow this evening.

aged people, "great devourers of kilometres" at high speed, but perfectly aware of the risks involved.

Whatever can be done to prevent either group from killing themselves or fellow motorists, do not look to French politicians of any shade of opinion for bold and effective solutions. The fear of annoying voters, of trespassing on precious civil liberties by insisting that police apply the laws of the land, is guaranteed to kill off most initiatives: only last year the Socialist government sunk proposals in a White Paper for the reduction of speed limits in urban areas, the creation of a new police force responsible for road safety and a study of the possibility of limiting the engine power of many vehicles.

That last proposition is regarded as a dead letter by France's road-safety specialists, most of whom are resigned to seeing traffic deaths rising inexorably. As one expert gloomily explained, the vast economic interests at stake ensured that it was impossible to clamp down on the automobile as such. "The police refuse to apply traffic laws because they are unpopular, the public authorities won't ram home the message that speeding is the crucial issue."

Only demographic change, he concluded - older drivers at the wheel - holds out hope of reducing the killing.

## US hospital treatment for Chernobyl air hero

Seattle A HELICOPTER test pilot who was named a hero of the Soviet Union for his courage during the Chernobyl nuclear disaster has been admitted to a hospital here for a bone marrow transplant.

Mr Anatoly Grishchenko, aged 53, was the first victim of the Chernobyl disaster to be taken to the United States for treatment.

Doctors at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre said on Thursday that Mr Grishchenko was suffering from pre-leukemia and gave him a 25 to 75 per cent chance of recovery with the bone marrow transplant.

Mr Patrick Beatty, an associate professor of medicine at the University of Washington and a member of the US medical team, said the team was seeking advice from radiation experts.

Mr Grishchenko was not the normal type of patient, he said. "We do hope to learn some things."

Mr Grishchenko, speaking through an interpreter, told reporters he had made five flights through heavy ionizing radiation to dump sand and wet cement on the burning Chernobyl reactor and for reconnaissance purposes after the nuclear facility exploded on April 26, 1986.

His Mi-28 helicopter was fitted with lead plates and he wore a lead-lined suit, but they apparently were not enough to protect him from radiation

exposure. His plight came to the attention of Captain Farrier, the light helicopter testing and evaluation director for McDonnell Douglas Corporation in Mesa, Arizona, who lobbied members of Congress, federal agencies and universities to arrange for his treatment.

There was a great deal of empathy among pilots, Captain Farrier said. "It's a small family. Experimental pilots have kind of set themselves apart by what they do, and it's a small brotherhood."

Soviet doctors had felt that they lacked the experience to perform the bone marrow transplant. Mr John Hansen, who is the clinical research director of the medical centre, said:

The cost of the treatment, which normally runs from \$150,000 (£91,460) to \$185,000, will be paid for by the Soviet Government, hospital officials said.

Reactor closed: A nuclear reactor in a Soviet power station was shut down on April 1 after a hydrogen leak, but there was no radioactive contamination, a Soviet newspaper reported yesterday.

Cracks were discovered in a water-cooling system in the plant at Nikolayev in the southern Ukraine near the Black Sea, said *Rabochaya Tribuna*, a daily newspaper. It said the reactor was restarted on April 8 only to be closed again the next day. The news-

paper, the daily of the Communist Party Central Committee, said investigators decided that there was no contamination to the power station or to a workers' village.

It said rumours of a big accident had alarmed the local population and in neighbouring Moldavia.

Almost four years ago the Chernobyl nuclear power station in northern Ukraine caught fire sending a swathe of radioactive particles across a large area of the Ukraine and Belarus, causing worldwide concern.

Thirty-two people were killed and tens of thousands were forced to evacuate from contaminated areas. (Reuters, AFP)

Soldiers found: Five Soviet soldiers abducted by an armed gang in Armenia on Thursday were found last night, unharmed but without their guns and ammunition. Tass reported.

The five were captured by a group of some 15 men armed with automatic weapons and dressed in military uniforms in an early morning raid on a checkpoint at the village of Aygepard.

Interior ministry troops are deployed along the frontier between Armenia and Azerbaijan to prevent further bloodshed in the two-year-old quarrel.

Tass said the soldiers were returned to their units. A search was being carried out for the kidnappers. (Reuters)

## Romania attacked over ban

GENEVA EXILED King Michael of Romania said yesterday that the new Bucharest leadership committed a "grave act" by barring him from visiting his native country over Easter for the first time since 1948.

The Romanian authorities revoked the King's visa as he was leaving Geneva for Bucharest on Thursday. In a communiqué yesterday, he said: "The decision of the Bucharest authorities prohibiting entry into my country is a grave act. Those who committed it will have to bear the full responsibility before the Romanian people and international public opinion."

The provisional Romanian Government cancelled the visas for King Michael, his wife, Anne, and his eldest daughter, Princess Margarita, after urging in vain that the visit be put off until after the May 20 elections. A statement said the visit would "exacerbate existing conflicts" and endanger the King's security.

In his communiqué, King Michael said: "I want to reiterate that I chose the feast of Easter for this first return to my country after 42 years of exile because this feast has a sacred character. The feast symbolizes resurrection and hope for the Romanian people after so much suffering."

King Michael, who was forced to abdicate on December 30, 1947, told a press conference after the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu that he was prepared to return to Romania as head of a constitutional monarchy. But he indicated that this would have to be subject to a national referendum. "I reaffirm my willingness to serve my country with all my strength in a real democratic process," he said in yesterday's communiqué, issued at his residence near Geneva.

The King, who would have travelled on a British diplomatic passport, also said he was never officially stripped of his Romanian citizenship. He said he never sought renewal of his Romanian passport because that would have amounted to a recognition of the communist regime.

He said on Thursday that he was still planning a visit "as soon as possible". Mr Romanus Neaga, the Romanian Deputy Foreign Minister, indicated in Bucharest that the King would get a visa after the elections. (AP)

## France speeds to the slaughter

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

AS THE annual Easter carnage began on roads all over France yesterday with at least 10 people killed in the stampede to get off to an early start, the authorities launched yet another nationwide campaign to reduce traffic accidents. "Operation White Flag" has been set as the ambitious target of cutting the number of victims by at least one-third during the five-day holiday period by encouraging motorists to obey the law.

Only Turkey and Portugal have death rates from road accidents comparable with France, where the latest official figure of 196 killed for every million inhabitants (that is, some 10,000 per annum) is roughly double that of Britain. Worse, it appears that every effort to stop the French killing each other at the wheel is doomed to failure by public resistance.

As *Le Monde* observed recently, practically everyone in France has an explanation for this, and most disagree on what to do about it. Yet the police and road-safety specialists have no problem identifying "the French disease": drunken driving is involved in 40 per cent of all accidents and speed is to blame in 45 per cent of all fatal crashes.

Speed and drink, drink and speed: can there be another country in Western Europe where so many motorists remain indifferent to the safety of others (alcohol is freely available at motorway service

stations, provided one buys a meal, too)? The striking absence of any clear perception of the public good, of civic responsibility, among the strenuously individualistic French at large is often bewailed by homegrown commentators.

Opinion polls indicate that, while most people in France are aware of the risks, a significant section of the public simply chooses not to change potentially lethal driving habits. In *Le Monde's* caustic phrase, the habit of excessive speeding that President Mitterrand has attacked as "a national illness" is seen by some "almost as a fundamental liberty".

A recent survey by France's main institute for research into road safety makes chilling reading. Almost one-third of drivers questioned considered that breaking the speed limit was "a positive risk", and about the same proportion believed that reducing maximum speeds would solve nothing (when they knocked 20kph off motorway limits, fatal accident deaths decreased almost immediately by some 9 per cent).

M. Jean-Pierre Cauzard, the institute's chief researcher, identifies this group of motorists as mainly young and unmarried men "who fear nothing, especially not the police or the risk of an accident... they simply adore speed". A second group he investigated consisted of well-educated, prosperous, middle-

aged people, "great devourers of kilometres" at high speed, but perfectly aware of the risks involved.

Whatever can be done to prevent either group from killing themselves or fellow motorists, do not look to French politicians of any shade of opinion for bold and effective solutions. The fear of annoying voters, of trespassing on precious civil liberties by insisting that police apply the laws of the land, is guaranteed to kill off most initiatives: only last year the Socialist government sunk proposals in a White Paper for the reduction of speed limits in urban areas, the creation of a new police force responsible for road safety and a study of the possibility of limiting the engine power of many vehicles.

That last proposition is regarded as a dead letter by France's road-safety specialists, most of whom are resigned to seeing traffic deaths rising inexorably. As one expert gloomily explained, the vast economic interests at stake ensured that it was impossible to clamp down on the automobile as such. "The police refuse to apply traffic laws because they are unpopular, the public authorities won't ram home the message that speeding is the crucial issue."

Only demographic change, he concluded - older drivers at the wheel - holds out hope of reducing the killing.

## Hungary ends casino bar

BUDAPEST IN ANOTHER sign of communism's demise, Hungarians will soon be able to gamble in casinos now reserved for Westerners.

MITI, the state news agency, reported on Thursday that restrictions on casino gambling will be lifted from tomorrow, a week after the country's first free election since 1945 brought a right-wing dominated Parliament to power.

Marxist ideology regarded gambling as immoral. Hungarians and fellow East Europeans were banned from trying their luck at baccarat or roulette when the first of Hungary's four casinos opened in 1981. One justification

for the ban pointed to rules prohibiting citizens from holding hard currency worth more than 4,000 Hungarian forints (£37).

"If they were sure to lose, it would be okay, but what would happen if they won?" Mr Sandor Radics, a Budapest casino manager, asked in an interview last year before democratic revolutions swept Eastern Europe.

"And it could cause trouble for us if citizens from other socialist countries could take large sums of hard currency home with them."

The real reason for the ban was Marxist theory. And now that communism is on the retreat all over Eastern Europe, attitudes are changing.

In February, Hungary granted its citizens the chance to get rich quick through a hard-currency lottery set up with Austria.

"The biggest ideological barrier in the past was that (gambling) was unearned income," said Mr Sandor Bornemissza, a spokesman for the lottery venture. "Now we're over this."

The chance to reduce Hungary's problematic budget deficit might also have something to do with it.

The Finance Ministry knows that Hungarians have stocks of hard currency acquired on the black market and is eager to take a share through profits and taxes on gambling. (Reuters)



# TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

St John's, Antigua

Great masses excite great passion. You have only to go to the cricket here to understand that. It also excites great journalism, of course: witness one of the finest headlines to have emerged from the England team's West Indies tour. It comes from *Blitz* of Trinidad ("The newspaper for everyone"), and reads "Black Baby for Gooch". The first sentence is equally startling: "Marilyn Williams has a black baby for England Test cricket captain Graham Gooch, the No 1 opening batsman for the England team which is currently touring West Indies." Before Brenda Gooch and the twins hear this, I had better continue: "Marilyn is a 27-year-old mother of three. She lives in Pinto Road, Arima,



Gooch: bowled over?

and she desperately wants Gooch to adopt her baby and take it back to England. Tell me more, I hear you ask. "I idolize Graham Gooch," said Marilyn. "He is very super in his sport and is a very kind and considerate man." She added: "Since Gooch desires to play cricket in South Africa, he should have no problem whatsoever in adopting my black child." Gooch, she apparently insists, would be able to give the child "a better life under the Queen".

Since the row between BBC commentator Christopher Martin-Jenkins and the entire Caribbean after his criticism of the Bridgetown Test umpire, Lloyd Barker, and the West Indies captain, Viv Richards, the BBC has received less than wholehearted co-operation here. No commentary box is provided, and various other logistical difficulties have left the commentators snookered. They are now broadcasting amid Danteque oppression and Pythonesque confusion, from a box tightly packed with harassed journo howling for facts and telephones. A daunting background noise, to say the least.

A truly remarkable cricket match was played in Barbados last week. It pitted the touring backs of the British Sunday newspapers against the dailies and was umpired at one stage by the England batsman Nasser Hussain. The start was so delayed by the characteristic dilatoriness of its participants that as the final 10 overs were played, bats (of the mammal variety) were emerging from their diurnal hiding places and chirruping overhead. As you would expect, the dailies won.

● Tony Greig, commentator on this Test series for Sky TV, has been criticized for his alleged gleeful shout, on a batsman's dismissal, of "On your bike, Charlie!" According to the producer, Gary Francis, he said no such thing. It was, more elegantly, "Good night, Charlie!"

The on-pitch scandal of the tour thus far has been the sordid slowing down of over rates by West Indies at Port of Spain and by England at Bridgetown. We managed no more than eight overs an hour, sometimes fewer, with grotesque devices adopted to slow things down still further. Mike Selvey, the former England, Middlesex and Glamorgan cricketer, tells me of a



Selvey: at full stretch

remarkable achievement. He and Charlie Rowe once managed 72 overs in a single session of just over two hours. It was an all-out effort to avoid a fine for sluggish over rates earlier in the season. It happened in 1983 against Hampshire, who were 210 for 5 after a single session. Selvey says he was bowling properly, even if off a short run. It saved the players £1,000, and at the end of the session he was offered a stretcher to leave the field. Gratefully, he accepted.

More on great passion. How much would you pay for 48 Liverpool FC match programmes? They are rather special — from the 1892-93 season, which was Liverpool's first, and include a programme for their very first game, their first Football League match and their first FA Cup match. Oh, and there are 13 reserve team programmes, and one from the Lancashire Cup semi-final as a little bonus. The seller is looking for at least £22,000.

The Conservative prime minister asks: "Is Parliament to be coerced into reversing its decision by the refusal of one set of persons to bear their share in the cost of citizenship? Such a system would mark the end of both law and liberty." Margaret Thatcher in 1990? No, Arthur Balfour in 1903 responding to a ratepayers' rebellion — an episode with many parallels to the anti-poll-tax protests of today.

The 1902 Education Act passed by Balfour's administration was an important and radical piece of social legislation, under which the provision of secondary education in Britain enormously improved. To this end, public funds raised from ratepayers were provided to the voluntary schools run by the churches, which taught religion along denominational lines. Nonconformists were outraged by the use of their taxes to propagate Anglicanism and Catholicism. "Rome on the Rates" was their protest slogan, and the Passive Resistance Movement, a campaign of non-payment of rates, was their response.

Passive resistance was carried to considerable lengths. Non-payment resulted in a summons

Richard Roberts finds a poll tax analogy in Balfour's day

## Protest that hit the Tories

to court, which provided publicity for the cause sufficient to satisfy the conscience of most protesters. But those who persisted in their refusal to pay received a visit from the bailiffs, who distrained goods to the value of the sum outstanding. Those refusing to surrender property to the bailiffs went to jail.

Passive resistance began in the spring of 1903. Local passive resistance groups were formed up and down the country. A National Passive Resistance Committee was established, and soon the movement had its own paper, *The Crusader*. By November 1904, there had been 33,678 summonses for non-payment and 1,392 auctions of goods; 54 passive resisters had been imprisoned. Disfranchisement was another penalty sometimes imposed. By the beginning of 1907, there had been more than 80,000 summonses and 2,500 auctions; 199 people had undergone 320 terms

of imprisonment, totalling five years and 167 days. It was a scale of protest and sacrifice which kept the grievance in the public eye and on the political agenda.

Prominent in the ranks of the passive resisters were clergymen, doctors and local councillors, among them the mayor and aldermen of Leicester. They also included a number of Liberal MPs, whose actions set a precedent for their Labour counterparts today. Many of these pillars of the community were troubled about defying the law, but like the Rev David Walker, former general secretary of the London Wesleyan Mission, they believed their consciences required them to do so "until the priests take their hands off the children".

The leading figure in the Passive Resistance Movement was Dr John Clifford, minister of the Westbourne Park Baptist chapel in London. Between 1903 and the outbreak of the First

World War, he made 41 widely reported court appearances for non-payment. Each time the bailiffs appeared to distraint his goods, he handed over two inscribed ceremonial silver bowls with which he had been presented upon laying chapel foundation stones. At each subsequent auction, they were purchased by supporters and returned to him ready for the next performance.

Other passive resisters were adept at attracting attention through the theatre of martyrdom. Sir Charles Edward Shaw MP presented the bailiffs with the gold watch given to him by his parents on his 21st birthday. A missionary in Kenya, a seafarer, "including his bicycle", to ensure he had nothing the bailiffs could seize, and was duly sent to jail for a week.

These antics aroused ridicule as well as respect. *Punch* made merry at the expense of the

passive resisters with a series of satirical reports of court appearances. The Rev Dr Mansfield, for instance, told the magistrates "that as a matter of conscience he would sooner see any young child taught the cannibalistic tenets of the Congo Arabs than imbibing any form of Christian doctrine that diffused even immaterially from what the defendant happened to believe".

Today's poll tax protesters seek historical support in War Tyler and the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, which was provoked by an attempt to collect a poll tax. The Passive Resistance Movement looked back to the English Revolution. Dr Clifford invoked Oliver Cromwell during his courtroom appearances, but it was John Hampden who was referred to most often. Hampden was the MP whose refusal to pay Charles I's arbitrary taxes in the 1620s and 1630s led to his imprisonment and inspired the resistance to the King that

culminated in the Civil War. "The name of John Hampden, and the acts which made him famous ought to be well known to every English citizen," commented a contemporary. Regrettably, few today know the name of this "pioneer of liberty, worthy of respect and veneration by all lovers of free government".

Even before the arrival of the new rates demands, there was an indication that the grass-roots stirrings would cause political problems for the Conservatives. At a by-election in North Leeds, a large Tory majority was overturned by the Liberals. At the general election of 1906, the Conservatives suffered a devastating defeat. Although the principal reason was the unpopularity of their economic policy, the massive Liberal majority owed something to the persistent activities of the passive resisters. In Wales, where Nonconformism was especially strong, the Tories failed to win a single seat.

When the Conservatives face the country in 1992, they may well find there is again a political price to pay for disturbing the ghosts of War, Tyler, John Hampden and Dr Clifford. The author lectures in economic history at Sussex University.

Clifford Longley on Christianity's growing respect for other faiths

## Truth, though not exclusive

Modern science is familiar with the phenomenon of discontinuity in nature. These breaks are abrupt changes, when one set of laws seems to stop and another to take over. On first discovery, they are intensely disconcerting, for scientific explanation seems to have broken down; but later work can reveal a transcending theory which explains both sets of laws. The understanding of nature, having surmounted its own discontinuity, is thereby advanced.

This is a powerful metaphor for the first Good Friday and Easter, a historical moment of discontinuity *par excellence*. The scriptural record shows how utterly disconcerted the followers of Jesus Christ were when they realized that all their expectations and predictions were made meaningless by his death on the Cross.

They were, after all, orthodox Jews. They had expected a messiah, and thought they had found him. But that his life should end in public execution, charged with blasphemous sedition by the Jewish authorities, was completely contrary to their expectation. This was no triumph; this was disaster.

Although the Gospel record tells the story in comprehensible even to the participants, it was written some time after the event, in the light of the dawning of a new understanding. Inevitably it is read by Christians today with the full benefit of doctrinal hindsight, in the knowledge especially of the credal definition, which took centuries to emerge, that Christ was both true God and true Man. The creed explains the death of Christ as necessary for his resurrection, and his resurrection as necessary for his divinity; and that is how the events of Good Friday are understood by Christians today.

Those present at the foot of the Cross had no such insights. Their first Good Friday is beyond recapture. Nevertheless, Christianity has always insisted on the importance of that day. One of the great evolutionary movements of religious thought in the 20th century has taken as its task the re-examination of that discontinuity, driven by an anxious fear that some of the lessons had for all these years been misunderstood.

The transcendental theory which was the basis for making sense of Good Friday presupposed that all that had gone before was mere preparation for that event and had no other meaning. Thus Christianity took Good Friday as a sign of God's repudiation of his previous covenant with the Jews, who were thought to have served their full purpose in his plan.

That Jesus himself was Jewish, as were all his disciples, was no longer deemed of any significance. In time, the continued right of the Jewish religion to exist came to be challenged; and eventually, in the course of

history, so did the right to exist of the Jewish race.

There is a growing recognition that too much of the old was discarded to make way for the new. Despite St Paul's clear statement that God had not repudiated his covenant with the Jews, other Christian leaders, as late as the middle of this century, insisted on treating Jewish survival as no more than a curious anomaly, not part of the hard evidence to be accommodated into their own comprehensive scheme of salvation.

The rethinking of Christian doctrine to make proper room for Jewish existence is far from complete, although the journey has begun and cannot now be diverted. The extent of the required alteration in Christian self-understanding is considerable. It is now hardly regarded as heterodox to believe that Jews are not a proper target for Christian proselytism. So the belief in the unique truth of Christianity will have to be approached by Christians in a new way. No doubt some will not find a way that satisfies them, and will abandon the belief altogether.

Once room has been made for Judaism, it is a small further step to make room for other faiths. The Christian tradition was once proud to insist on its exclusiveness, represented in the phrase "no salvation outside the church"; but life is no longer so simple. Few apart from Protestant fundamentalists now regard explicit acceptance of faith in Christ as the only way to heaven.

Yet the radical discontinuity of Easter is still preached universally in all the churches, not only the evangelical ones. They still use the old formulae of faith. The official theology of the churches still stresses the uniqueness of Christ and the unique significance for the whole of mankind of the events of his life, death and resurrection. What they say is the same, but what they now mean is subtly different.

Their implicit belief (to which their explicit belief has not yet adjusted) is that the uniqueness of Christ's life remains significant, even though knowledge of it is no longer considered a condition of an individual's salvation. This makes the Christian claim more modest and less likely to offend non-Christians.

The great theologian Karl Rahner invented the phrase "anonymous Christian" to describe those who are, so to speak, covered by the events of the Christian salvation but do not recognize them as true. This is the beginning of the adjustment of the theory to explain the new discontinuity. It is by no means an official doctrine, but the behaviour of the churches towards other faiths today really makes sense only in Rahner's terms. It is a hypothesis at the very beginning of its useful life: its implications, great as they are, have yet to be fully explored.

## ANC in need of a different tune

R.W. Johnson sees an urgent need to abandon the rhetoric of opposition and organize for the responsibilities of government



Chief Buthelesi were scheduled, only to be cancelled in the face of furious reaction from township militants. "Talks about talks" with de Klerk have now been scheduled once again, though only after the ANC was excoriated in the South African press for foot-dragging and came under pressure from a number of Western ambassadors.

Meanwhile, apart from Sebokeng, more than 300 blacks have died at the hand of other blacks, mainly in Natal, and all manner of strikes, boycotts, marches and protests are erupting. The ANC has found itself in much the same position as the government: continually reacting to events it neither planned nor controls.

On Monday, Nelson Mandela will step out of all this into the very different atmosphere of the Wembley concert. Pop fans will give him a royal welcome, as well they might, since his schedule has given them precedence over Bush, Gorbachov, Kohl and even Mrs Thatcher, in her own country. Mr Mandela has

not disguised his disagreement with other ANC leaders on a number of issues, and it is possible that his own schedule may be one of these. I expect to enjoy the concert, but the situation is shot through with ironies.

To understand all this, one has to grasp how deeply the ANC has been impregnated with the defensive culture of opposition. For decades it has sided automatically with — and even claimed as its own — every manifestation of black resistance in South Africa. It is profoundly disconcerted now to find that, like any other political party, it has to risk offending some supporters to satisfy others. Survey data shows there is a huge moderate black constituency which wants law and order, its children back in school and peaceful negotiation, and which actually prefers the idea of black rule. But the ANC is torn between that constituency and the altogether more strident tones of the young township radicals, not just because it fears

they might defect to the Pan-African Congress, but because long habit means that as a movement it feels happier with the rhetoric of opposition and the drama of protest.

This instinct probably also explains why the ANC continues to campaign for intensified economic sanctions and even for other nations to break off diplomatic links with Pretoria. As the ANC must realize, no country will heed such pleas while negotiations for majority rule are under way. But the movement seems to be happier to buy at the moon, even if it loses credibility by doing so.

In addition, the culture of opposition has left the ANC with an intensely collectivist style, in which almost everything has to be subordinated to "the movement's structures". It is assumed, for example, that the return of exiles to South Africa will be collectively organized, and that the exiles will all sign a loyalty oath. In many cases, these people have spent their time abroad exclusively in one another's company, reinforcing a rhetoric of opposition rather than reading widely or opening themselves to other influences. This may have been inevitable, but there is a price to pay for this in a tendency always to follow "the line" and a lack of the independent thought which is essential as the movement enters tricky and uncharted waters.

Not long ago I tried to make the point to an ANC official that many of South Africa's problems would be just the same whoever was in power: the population is doubling every 20 years; the country is running out of water; one baby in six born in Soweto has AIDS; any government will want a high gold price, and so on. The ANC man bridled at such talk: "We may not care about the gold price. We may decide not to be a mining economy at all. The movement will decide." Even the notion that mining is a matter of simple geology and economic necessity for South Africa was subordinated to a blind faith that the movement could alter reality by pure political fiat.

Many of the ANC's problems, such as its lack of managerial expertise and the absence of a credible organization on the ground, are not of its own making. Verwoerd's curse, Bantu education, still lies heavy upon South Africa, as does the heritage of decades of political suppression, harassment and violence. What the ANC has been through is so awful that it can, if it wants, make excuses forever, but it is a temptation it must resist. It has to make the painful transition to maturity as a political party and, more difficult still, to thinking — and acting — like a future government. It's fine to enjoy the music of protest, but the ANC must now start to hum some different tunes.

The author is a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford.

## Caring for someone else's clichés



MATTHEW PARRIS

There must be a hundred subtle little ways to tell that you are talking to an empty-headed pinko. I used to think that one "addressed" either envelopes or meetings of the National Farmers

Union, but pinkos address "issues", "whole ranges" of them. Recently they have started addressing "agendas" too; sometimes even "hidden agendas", with "concealed sub-texts".

Now the spongy-brains have invented "carers" and decided that those who care in exchange for money (as opposed to caring because they care) are "professional carers". Soon they will have badges: "Hired to Care". A professional carer "cares passionately". Imagine a committee session of local government bousing officers who really did "care passionately". The town hall would be bedlam. There would be snapped Biro's everywhere.

It may be that the accretion of cliché signals the atrophy of intellectual muscle. If so, the right is catching up fast. It started some time ago with Mrs Thatcher's "courage and determination". C&D: you had it or you didn't. Every constituency speech did.

Then, as the economy tottered, we were "leaner and fitter". This was because we had "given managers the right to manage", removed the "dead hand of socialism" and "tamed the union bully-boys". All that, of course, came after "Labour's winter of discontent".

Then came "excellence". That was what government was about: Kenneth Baker didn't just want

good schools, he wanted "beacons of excellence". Possibly he meant there wasn't enough to go round for the others; possibly he meant nothing at all.

Now dissent grows and we are warned not to listen to the "strident voices": a code-cliché for the view that pain is good for you. "Strident voices" suggest you take an aspirin if you have a headache.

I shall draft two speeches, one for Mrs T and one for Mr K. "The Institute of Directors". Mrs T will say, "care passionately about centralization". That is the new agenda. Redundant dock workers can get jobs as domestic service "carers" ("butlers"). That is the sub-text. "Ah," Mr K will respond, "but the rationalized docks will be beacons of excellence. Now that the TUC is leaner and fitter, if it were not for Ron Todd's courage and determination..."

I BLUNDERED into the wrong area at the United Nations drugs jamboree in London this week.

It was my fault. There were biscuits upstairs and nobody was eating them. I was finishing off the second plateful when I realized that everyone else had gone. I rushed downstairs, saw men in suits disappearing through swing doors, and followed them. The seats (each provided with headphones and placards marked with names like "Gabon" or "United States") were all taken, so I found a corner next to the rostrum itself.

Later I was expelled. "How on earth did you get in?" they kept asking. It seems there was a separate balcony for the press; I had joined the delegates. Nobody challenged me during our PM's opening speech, however. That is how it came to pass that she was staring straight into my eyes

when she said "our children". Mrs Thatcher and I do not have any children. I have no children at all, not being married. I do not regard those of other British voters as mine. I am terribly fond of them — as I am of Eskimos' children and the Duchess of York's — but they are definitely somebody else's.

However, the phrase "our children" has — when offered by a politician — a key function. It alerts us to the likelihood that the politician is about to say something piously reactionary. "Our children" should be protected from "scenes of violence" on "our television screens" — two more phrases which serve a

similar purpose: they say that the speaker is of a censorious disposition, regrets very much that the world is as it is, wants you to know it, but has nothing to propose. The words are not so much conduits of meaning as a sort of verbal umbrella.

Political cliché communicates as a bus-stop communicates. No new idea is conveyed: that is not the point. The aim is to indicate a position which is convivial and comfortable, in the company of like-minded people, where one can wait for something to come along.

The political right used to be out-classed by the left in the sheer richness of its in-house clichés.





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

## RESURRECTION

The celebration of Easter Day all over Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union will bring extra joy to the faithful this year, for it is the first since the remarkable resurrection of democracy which made 1989 a landmark in world history. Religion also has come out from the shadows. Its influence and inspiration in the struggle for freedom was crucial.

Under repressive Communist regimes, religious communities could hope for little more than survival. Some were strengthened by the experience; others, unfortunately, were corrupted by it. Just as the churches of Western Europe needed to subject themselves to a profound examination of conscience over their behaviour in the Nazi era, so those of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union must come to terms with their more recent past, remembering with pride episodes of heroic defiance, with sorrow instances of cowardly compromise.

The recovery from the social marginalization imposed on them by Communism will take time, and it is too soon to conclude that the Christian democratic movement, which was so powerful in rebuilding Western Europe after the war, will now also put down roots in the East. The Eastern churches will also have to adjust to the same pressures towards secularism that have put religious faith on the defensive in the older democracies. Secularism has been a powerful stimulus to the development in Western Europe of ecumenism, but it has made less progress in the East. Ecumenism has in turn generated new insights into relations between Christianity and other world faiths, and as a result a great revolution in Christian self-understanding is under way.

Freedom can release evil as well as good, and there is accordingly an important transitional agenda for religion in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Very near the top should be the management of certain residual sentiments and prejudices, so that their re-emergence can be resisted. Anti-Semitism is the most serious, although other forms of ethnic or quasi-racial bigotry are also liable to grow.

Anti-Semitism is more in evidence in the former Soviet bloc today than for a generation, but it is impossible to judge whether that is because of more open reporting or whether there is, genuinely, a resurgence. Jewish opinion, with an eye on its effect on immigration to Israel, is divided on whether to play it down or emphasize it.

Easter is a fitting time to record the progress

that has been made by Western Christianity to eliminate the last vestiges of anti-Jewish sentiment from church doctrine and worship. It has learnt to handle carefully the way the crucifixion is recorded in the Gospels, in order to counteract the once virtually universal assumption that the Jews of every generation must share the blame for the death of Christ. The Second Vatican Council firmly condemned the "teaching of contempt" for Jews and Judaism in 1965, and the Good Friday liturgy has been revised accordingly.

Happily, it is those revisions which will have been used by millions of Catholics in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union yesterday. Even in the West, however, it has been found that the revision of texts is not enough, and a campaign of teaching from the pulpit is also required.

The Catholic Church in the Ukraine was kept in darkness by Soviet Communism — and indeed by Russian Orthodox repression — for so long that the influence of new thinking in the church elsewhere can scarcely have reached it. The Pope told President Gorbachev last year that he would take special care to ensure that freedom for that church would not unleash unmanageable forces, though he was no doubt thinking more of nationalism than of anti-Semitism.

So far there has been no statement from the Russian Orthodox Church similar to those adopted by Vatican II 25 years ago and by the Lambeth Conference in 1988 which both repudiated the charge of "deicide" against the Jewish race. Orthodox leaders do not merely have an obligation to eliminate anti-Semitic teaching from their official documents, including the liturgy. Positive teaching to correct popular prejudice is also urgently necessary. The same applies to the Baptists and Lutherans of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and to the smaller sects.

Nazism was an atheist or pagan creed. Religious anti-Semitism was, however, so widespread across Europe before the appearance of Hitler that the ground was well prepared for his cultivation of hatred towards the Jews. Anti-Semitism is nothing new in Central and Eastern Europe. What is new is that the rest of the world, knowing what it now knows and remembering the six million victims, cannot tolerate it. The first Easter of the new European spring is a good moment to say so.

## UP AND AWAY

In recent years, people who have decided to fly off to foreign parts for a few days at Bank holidays have got into the habit of crossing their fingers. All too often they find themselves sitting endlessly at Gatwick or flying to the Costa Brava by way of the Skagerrak. For once, despite industrial action at French airports and some early restrictions on aircraft over Spain, it seems that this weekend most of them have been lucky. The coming holiday season promises more headaches, however, and the failure to find a cure is fast becoming a disgrace.

The tribulations of holidaymakers represent only the tip of a vast iceberg of frustration with which business travellers are even more painfully familiar. The German Airspace Users' Association estimates that Europe's stop-age system of air-traffic control costs \$5 billion a year in delays, low productivity and inefficient routings. Individual airlines are reticent about how much they actually lose through such delays, but the Association of European Airlines believes that it does not fall far short of \$1,000 billion a year.

In North America, the air space structure corresponds to operational requirements. In Europe, there are more than 40 control centres operated by 22 national systems. It is a total nonsense, both in terms of 1992 and of our fast-changing relations with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Indifferent labour relations have aggravated the problem, with the unions in most parts of Western Europe demonstrating their muscle with brutal clarity. To some extent this problem has been solved, but only by throwing money at the workforce. A senior traffic controller can now earn as much as an airline pilot, but the pressures of the job continue to make recruiting difficult. Spain has only about

half its complement, and though the national shortfall in Britain is only 5 per cent, the figure in London is closer to 30 per cent.

There is no shortage of structural solutions which make sense on paper. The number of control centres must obviously be drastically reduced — some proposals advocate as few as six. This would entail some form of joint management by the member-states, because the boundaries of the control areas would no longer correspond with national frontiers.

Such organizational matters pale into insignificance beside the political considerations which arise. It is not fashionable for defence ministers to doff their caps to "peace dividends", but their officials are unlikely to fall over themselves to give up any of the generous allocations of restricted airspace which they currently occupy. National sovereignty over such matters is jealously guarded even by the most rabidly federalist of our European partners.

There is to be a meeting of European transport ministers later this month. They will have in their briefcases a recent report from IATA telling them that they need to find sums running into billions over the next decade to overhaul the system.

If nothing is done, the liberalization of air transport in Europe, to which all governments and airlines pay lip service, could be delayed for many years. There is no need to establish some great new pan-European bureaucracy. The scheme put forward by the Association of European Airlines made a convincing case for an integrated system to be operated on a commercial basis. The United Kingdom should take the lead in demonstrating that there are pragmatic ways in which it can perceive the European interest every bit as clearly as its neighbours.

## JUST THE TICKET

We are all fascinated by those who can do anything — anything — better than everybody else in the world. Run the fastest mile, shear a flock of sheep most quickly, lift the largest number of stamps in an hour — the *Guinness Book of Records* is not by accident a best-seller. And assuredly there will be a new entry in the next edition: step forward, Mrs Silvia Matos.

Unfortunately she is most unlikely to step, because she has compelling reason to hide her light under a bushel. Mrs Matos holds the world parking-tickets record: between 1985 and 1988, in New York, she collected 2800. Or rather, she did not collect them: New York's finest issued them, only to find that because she had registered her car under 19 false addresses and 36 equally fictitious number-plates, they are quite unable to bill her for something close to \$150,000.

It is difficult to resist the conclusion that Mrs Matos has a thing about parking-tickets. Do the arithmetic: 2800 tickets in three years is getting on for three a day. It is clear that Mrs Matos not only has an exceptionally close relationship with parking-tickets, she must spend a very arduous day inviting them.

To start with, she has got to find an illegal parking space. In New York, however, she is by no means the only so-called, though she is the undoubted champion, in desperation, many motorists trapped in the grid of Manhattan are in the habit of leaving their cars where they should not — even, sometimes, right under that sinister sign: "Don't even THINK of parking here." Imagine the indignation and chagrin Mrs Matos would feel if she found that there was no car-space in which to break the law.

If she has her problems, so do we. Suppose it is a good day for her; she bags a space right beside a fire-hydrant (a heinous offence in New York), gets out, locks the car and strolls away. But what does she do until it is time to get back in and seek a place in which to deserve another ticket? Does she just wander about? Or has she friends in every block in the city, so that she is never far from a hundred yards or so from a dry martini, a chat with a girl-friend and the satisfaction of knowing that somewhere a policeman is once more tucking the familiar bit of paper under her windshield-wiper?

But stay: we have just noticed something that may alter our entire perception of Mrs Matos. Do the arithmetic again: nine hundred and something tickets a year. Roughly, we said, three a day, but it was very roughly. Come, subtract 52 from 365, and we have 313 days. Almost exactly three a day. The amazing conclusion stares us in the face. She does not park illegally on Sundays.

What on earth have we here? A devout miscreant, a godly sinner, a reverent offender? It is all very well to quote that bit about six days thou shalt labour, but her passion for parking-tickets can hardly be classified as a job or trade. On the other hand, her respect for the Sabbath suggests that there are plainly some niceties which she observes, though the New York parking-ticket office is unlikely to be impressed by the news. We can only wait until she is caught. Even then, asked why she felt obliged to notch up the 2800 tickets, she would probably reply, in the famous words because it was there.

## Comments in rape trial

From Dr Neville Davis

Sir, In recent years much progress has been made towards victim-centred improvements in the conduct of investigations dealing with cases of alleged rape and the subsequent welfare of these unfortunate women.

This has involved extensive retraining of police and medical personnel, the provision of examination suites more appropriate to the purpose than the inherently unsuitable secure areas of police stations, the training of volunteer support counsellors and a more realistic statistical approach to give a truer picture of the incidence of these sexual offences. As a result more women are reporting attacks instead of suffering in silence, now able to overcome the fear of their treatment in the subsequent investigation.

Fear of what might happen to them in court has been more troublesome. There have been some judicial decisions and comments in the past that have been most unhelpful. I recall the case of the gardener who was treated leniently "so as not to damage his military career", the young hitchhiker who was told that she was guilty of "contributory negligence", and the lenient sentences given to the Ealing vicarage rapists did not inspire confidence either.

Now we have Judge Dean in the case of *R v Kemp* reported by your Legal Affairs Correspondent (April 11). I find it difficult to understand how he can justify remarking to the jury that "when a woman says 'no' she doesn't always mean it", and "Men can't turn their emotions on and off, like some women can".

We are not dealing here with criticism directed towards one particular lady. This appears to be a rebuttal of the basic principle that women have the right to decide on whom they will bestow their sexual favours. It may also be construed as an invitation to men to ignore such decisions on the basis that they have been aroused and are therefore incapable of exercising control and behaving in a civilised manner.

It can't be right, and I am sure that all interested parties await an appropriate reaction from the Lord Chancellor in an attempt to undo the extensive damage that these gratuitous remarks will certainly cause.

Yours faithfully,  
NEVILLE DAVIS,  
Brownlow Medical Centre,  
140-142 Brownlow Road, N11,  
April 11.

## Facts of history

From Mr Martin Auton

Sir, Following the recent brouhaha concerning the National Curriculum history report it might prove instructive to consider the "Pret-à-massacre". Was it "a fact" that a large gathering threatened law and order and property, necessitating prompt preventative action by the authorities, or was it "a fact" that the agents of repressive government "massacred" a crowd of innocent people manifesting a genuine grievance?

History seems to have inclined to the latter interpretation, raising it to the status of "a fact". Perhaps Mrs Thatcher would ponder on this, not least so soon after the recent poll tax-related events in central London.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN AUTON,  
250 Minister Court,  
Myrtle Street,  
Liverpool 7,  
April 10.

## Cure for bullies

From Miss Jean Lanham

Sir, Mrs Doreen Stone suggests (April 9) that a similar subject to *Education Civique* should be introduced in our State schools to encourage considerate behaviour in our children.

Although regrettably not part of the State system, the Montessori method of education does introduce social skills to the child as soon as he enters the nursery at the age of two and a half. The child, who at this age has a great thirst for learning, gladly adopts the considerate and positive approach towards his peers, which in turn develops his own self-esteem. An attitude such as this, developed in the formative years, will stay with the child for the rest of his life.

It is at the pre-school age that we need to encourage the acquisition of social skills in order to instil a harmonious environment both in the classroom and out.

Yours faithfully,  
JEAN LANHAM,  
23a Brentham Way, W5,  
April 9.

## Health councils

From Mr Philip Clayton

Sir, Among the many important issues raised by current legislation there is the danger that community health councils (CHCs) will be overlooked. Since their establishment their work has developed considerably, despite many constraints, not least financial. Significant changes in primary health care for GPs, in the private and voluntary sectors and in the interlinks with social services all present opportunities but equally dangers for the community health.

In particular if the interfaces between different organisations aren't correct there will either be gaps or overlaps (with consequent conflict). All this heightens the need, for a com-

## Tangled strands of European unity

From Mr Francis Dobbyn

Sir, Ronald Butt's article on European unity (April 11) illustrates the unreality of much of the debate on Europe.

Perceived national interests and economic and industrial power are the primary forces at work in international relations. Europe remains a collection of nation states. These states are in favour of EMU (European Monetary Union) and greater political unity in so far as they perceive these initiatives as being in their national interest.

How have our national interests been served by our involvement in Europe? Whilst our trade with Europe has increased, their trade with us, particularly that of Germany, has increased a great deal more. We have gone from a rough trade balance with Europe to a £16 billion annual trade deficit. For this privilege we pay far more than we need for food, pay a significant annual contribution to the EC, and have also lost out in third markets to our European competitors and Japan. Britain is the only level playing field in Europe and our competitors greatly enjoy playing on it.

German industrial and economic power, enhanced in the medium term by reunification, must be reflected in a growth in political power that will dwarf all other participants in a united Europe. The effect of such unity would be the marginalization of the non-German economies and the institutionalization of German hegemony in Europe. France may be as ready to accept this now as she was in 1940.

I am not clear why we perceive it as being in our national interest to be as complacent. It is difficult to see how any further loss of freedom of action will benefit us. Europe has more to lose in trade with us than we have with them and a reduction in our input costs, particularly food, combined with a more secure home base for our industry must assist our competitiveness in third markets.

As for accountability, that will be tested when a majority vote in Europe results in a decision perceived to be against the national interest of a mighty Germany. Artificial European institutions would not long survive such a decision.

Mrs Thatcher is out of step with the establishment on this matter because, unlike them, she has not lost her faith and confidence in Britain and will not acquiesce in national suicide.

Yours sincerely,  
FRANCIS DOBBYN,  
24 Kings Chase,  
Crowthorne, East Sussex,  
April 11.

## Drugs sanctions

From Dr E. Moran

Sir, In arguing for the relaxation of criminal sanctions on drugs, your leading article (April 10) refers to the experience in relation to off-course betting in Britain. However, the situation was far more complex than is suggested.

The legalisation of off-course betting in 1961 certainly was responsible for the removal of racketeering and corruption in this area. However, it was associated with a greater availability of betting. This led to an increased misuse of it by certain people whose gambling became pathological (compulsive).

Also, the manner in which certain types of gambling were legalised in 1961 actually resulted in a great upsurge of illegal gaming with an imminent threat of the involvement of organised crime. The subsequent control of commercial gaming in 1970 was only achieved by ensuring very restricted availability and careful

From Mr Ken Daly

Sir, There is one generalisation in Mr Butt's backdrop which is not entirely accurate. This is where he claims that virtually every Tory MEP supported that clause in the Martin resolution which sought to transform the Community into a European Union of a federal type and "go beyond the single market and monetary union". In fact, during the debate British Conservative MEPs sought unsuccessfully to have the words in quotes deleted.

This is not just an academic point, because too many anti-marketisers tend to attach an all-embracing federalist label to people who acknowledge unashamedly their commitment to positive and evolutionary development of the Community. To seek this is not to be a "Euro-fascist".

Indeed, federalism has become a pejorative phrase on many lips, despite the fact, as Mr Butt rightly points out, that the Germans view their version of federalism as being genuinely devolutionary. As one German MEP put it to me recently: "Our system ensures that we are not ruled by one city."

People in Bristol, Newcastle, Cardiff, or Glasgow who feel they may not feature highly enough in London/Whitehall thinking might wish to reflect on this genuinely perceived advantage of the German system.

That said, Mr Butt's main assertion that Mrs Thatcher has become isolated is totally accurate. The French/Delors disposition to think aloud, while keeping options open, has prompted an emotional over-reaction from Mrs Thatcher and some of her advisers which, "without a shot being fired", has neutralised our most successful and radical post-war prime minister.

The tragedy is that this has taken place at the very moment when the Soviet bloc is at last casting communism aside and embracing a free enterprise philosophy as being the only way forward. Mrs Thatcher, more than most, helped kindle this fire on her visits to and subsequent dialogue with the Russians, Poles, and Hungarians. Now, when that just dividend should be collected on behalf of the centre-right parties, Mrs Thatcher has retired to a virtually Stygian isolation, which has saddened and bewildered her friends and allies in the US and Europe.

Yours faithfully,  
KEN DALY,  
The Old School House,  
Aisholt, Spaxton,  
nr Bridgewater, Somerset,  
April 12.

monitoring under a national statutory body. This not only cleaned up gaming but also seemed to reduce the incidence of pathological gambling resulting from it.

The relaxation of criminal sanctions on "an unwelcome industry which cannot be contained" must be associated with restricted availability of its products and adequate monitoring. Otherwise there will be increased use and inevitably this will be associated with greater misuse.

Yours faithfully,  
E. MORAN,  
Department of Psychiatry,  
Chase Farm Hospital,  
The Ridgeway,  
Enfield, Middlesex,  
April 12.

From Mr David Long-Price  
Sir, Reference today's leader. If you can't lick 'em, tax 'em?  
Yours faithfully,  
DAVID LONG-PRICE,  
Delamas, Fryerning,  
Ingatstone, Essex,  
April 10.

## National Gallery

From Mr Michael Coombes

Sir, As the scaffolding begins to be struck on the National Gallery extension one can now see the tragedy of the "carbuncle" saga. Instead of the distinguished solutions by Ahrends Burton and Koralek we have a building that asks many questions.

Are the "stuck on" classical columns the thoughts of an academic architect or the incomplete work of a cake decorator? Do the skylights relate to the building and improve the view from Trafalgar Square?

Finally, is it right to introduce brick on Whitcomb Street which intrudes into the vista along Pall Mall East which was once of uninterrupted stone?

Yours etc,  
MICHAEL H. COOMBES,  
The Oak House,  
Shorts Wood,  
Biddenden,  
nr Ashford, Kent.

national or local. Rights of access are crucial, both to premises and information. Equally it is necessary that the resources that fulfil the functions match the responsibilities involved.

The specific proposals that flow are obviously detailed, but unless we believe that all managerial decisions are right, are never misconceived or influenced by self-interest, the need for constructive criticism will remain. They should be within an established framework and supported by the necessary rights and definition of duties requisite to ensure a constructive outcome.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP CLAYTON,  
111 Thorney Lane,  
Wincey, Oxfordshire.

## Royal anthem under scrutiny

From Mr R. D. Rawsee

Sir, I was interested to read your report (April 9) that the Church of England's Liturgical Commission is proposing to use Hickson's verse emphasising the brotherhood of man as the middle verse of the National Anthem.

In our school Remembrance Day services we have made this substitution for some years now, usually provoking the interest and approval of the older as well as the younger members of the congregation.

Somehow I feel that even children of preparatory school age would not feel it appropriate to ask the Almighty to confound anyone's politics — a subject that is apt to confuse them anyway — let alone praying that the enemies' "knavish tricks" be frustrated, except possibly before an important school rugby match.

The young do, however, see the importance of singing, "Lord, make the nations see that men should brother be and form one family the wide world o'er".

Yours faithfully,  
RONALD BAWTREE  
(Headmaster),  
Hazelwood School,  
Wolfs Hill,  
Limpfield,  
Oxford, Surrey,  
April 11.

From Mr A. H. Atkins

Sir, Attempts have been made before to improve or reform the National Anthem but have passed unregarded. The tune's long history, with elements from plainsong to galliard rhythms of John Bull and Purcell, crystallised out at the time of the Young Pretender, while the words sometimes complained of seem to have originated in an official church prayer to mark the failure of the Gunpowder Plot.

They represent an outspoken and truly British sentiment as contrasted with the niceties of professional diplomats, and have seemed pretty constantly applicable during this imperfect century.

If a modern version of the melody be required, Rossini's in the opera *The Journey to Reims*, scene 25, when Lord Sidney the English colonel sings it with patriotic flourishes at the Hotel Golden Lily, in France, might be used.

Yours faithfully,  
A. H. ATKINS,  
16 Hallgate,  
Blackheath Park, SE3,  
April 11.

From Mr Noel Brandon-Jones

Sir, The second verse of our National Anthem does not call upon God to scatter our enemies but her enemies (or, when we have a king, his). Can the Liturgical Commission explain how God is to save the Queen without frustrating the knavish tricks of her enemies, both at home and abroad?

Yours faithfully,  
NOEL BRANDON-JONES,  
Redwater House,  
Barton Turf,  
Norfolk,  
April 9.

From the Reverend Christopher Fenton

Sir, One of my duties, some years ago, as a parish priest was to be the visiting chaplain to a London County Council-approved school. I remember how important it was to avoid using familiar metaphors (God as Father, for instance) in our prayers together. Most of the boys' experience of "father" was not a happy one. By the same token many people's experience of "family" is equally unhappy.

Of course, if the Church of God is really serious about offering to people another family, for those who have lost their own, or never known one, that would be a very different matter. But then, there would have to be a considerable amount of setting the house in order before it became a fit place to welcome the wanderers: love, like charity, begins at home.

Yours truly,  
CHRISTOPHER FENTON  
(Director),  
The Saint Anne's Centre,  
Under Down,  
Ledbury,  
Herefordshire.

From the Reverend Michael Hamilton Sharp

Sir, Why do we want to change the second verse of the National Anthem? In the last months we have seen the answer to such prayers: communism has crumbled and without any of man's wars.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL HAMILTON SHARP,  
The Rectory,  
Stratford St Mary,  
Suffolk,  
April 9.

From Mr D. R. Stanning  
Sir, Will the Liturgical Commission soon be turning its attention to the numerous hymns and anthems in regular use that seek to inspire the singers thereof (if not the listeners) with militaristic exhortations?

"Onward, Christian followers, striving to a demonstration", doesn't quite carry the familiar ring.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID STANNING,  
West Bapsey, Barry Hill,  
Taplow Village,  
Buckinghamshire,  
April 11.



## SOCIAL NEWS

### Birthdays

TODAY: Miss Julie Christie, actress, 50; Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, 59; Sir John Gielgud, C.H. actor, 86; Mr Gerry Gillman, trades unionist, 63; Mr Ivor Guest, ballet writer, 70; Lord Hastings, 78; Mr Julian Lloyd Webber, cellist, 39; Miss L.E.M. Mackie, former headmistress, City of London School for Girls, 64; Colonel Sir Robert Macrae, Lord Lieutenant of Orkney, 75; Baroness Masham of Iton, 55; Mr P.G.A. Ramsay, former controller, BBC, 64; Dr J.M. Roberts, warden, Merton College, Oxford, 62; the Ven R.H. Roberts, former Chaplain of the Fleet, 59; Mr David Stepper, headmaster, Merchant Taylors' School, 57; Mr Rod Steiger, actor, 63; Miss Elizabeth Symons, trades unionist, 39; Sir Peter Thompson, executive chairman, National Freight Consortium, 62; Mr George Walker, chairman and chief executive, Brest Walker Group, 61; Baroness Warnock, 66.

### Giggleswick School

The following Scholarship Awards have been made for September 1990:

**Senior School:** South Form Academic Scholarships: David Gough, Huddersfield High School; Helen Smith, Longthorpe High School; North Form Academic Scholarships: David Gough, Huddersfield High School; Helen Smith, Longthorpe High School. **Middle School:** Elizabeth Fletcher, Tynagh High School; Jonathan Mortimer, Mortimer School; Andrew Vane, Mortimer School. **Junior School:** Clare Novotny, Mortimer School; Clare Novotny, Mortimer School; Clare Novotny, Mortimer School. **Academic Scholarships:** Clare Novotny, Mortimer School; Clare Novotny, Mortimer School; Clare Novotny, Mortimer School.

### Royal College of Physicians

Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians of London have re-elected Professor Margaret Turner-Warwick as president.

### Retirement

Judge Hawser QC, Senior Official Referee since 1985, retired from the Circuit Bench on the South Eastern Circuit yesterday.

### Tridentine Mass

A Tridentine Mass is said every Sunday at 9.30 am, at St James Church, Spanish Place, George Street, London, W1.

### Latest wills

Mr Roger Walter William Webber, of Basingstoke, Hampshire, died aged 82.

## Owners give oaks to repair cathedral roof

Some of the best oaks in the north of England are being felled to repair the roof of Carlisle cathedral.

The timber will replace wood some of which has been in place for about 700 years, since a big fire in 1292.

The trees are all about 150 years old and are each worth up to £2,000. They have been donated by landowners after an appeal by Sir Charles Graham, the Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria.

Mr Ray Nichol, the cathedral architect, said yesterday: "We have had a tremendous response - about 20 trees up to now."

The repairs are to the main choir roof, which is about 150

feet long, and are part of a six year project.

Mr Nichol said: "When the cathedral was built the builders simply went into the forest and chopped down trees as they needed them. We can't do that and there are not many oaks today of the sizes used then. So we are grateful for these big trees which will enable us to put back timber like for like as far as possible."

"Donations of trees are thought to be new as far as Carlisle cathedral is concerned but many trees were donated to York Minster."

"We have had virtually no help from outside the county - Cumbria's achievement is magnificent" said Mr Nichol.

## Forthcoming marriages

Major J.H. Gibbon RA and Mrs R.A. Hamilton. The engagement is announced between John, only son of General Sir John and Lady Gibbon, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Rosemary, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Pettit, of Concombe, Dorset.

Mr D.J.D. Arter and Miss M.R. Weir. The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mrs David Arter, of Kirkhampton, Carlisle, and Margaret Rose, eldest daughter of Captain and Mrs James Weir, of Parford, Chagford, Devon.

Mr P.C.A. Collard and Miss P.A. Kitch. The engagement is announced between Paul Christopher Ambrose, elder son of Mr J.A. Collard, of Rye, Sussex, and the late Mrs Rita Collard, and Penelope Ann, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Kitch.

Mr A.J. Guthrie and Miss P.M. Whitty. The engagement is announced between Alastair, younger son of the late Mr Jack Guthrie and of Mrs Guthrie, of Hinton, St George, Somerset, and Patricia, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Peter Whitty, of Wadhurst, Sussex.

Mr M.K. Houlden and Miss K.A. Coldrey. The engagement is announced between Kingsley Michael, elder son of Mr and Mrs Stanley Houlden, of Fareway Lodge, Newmarket, Suffolk, and Katherine Amanda, daughter of Captain Christopher Coldrey, of Herringwell, Newmarket, Suffolk, and Mrs Jane Coldrey, of Cape Town.

Mr A.D. Howard and Miss K.A. Walker. The engagement is announced between Alastair David, only son of Mr and Mrs M.J.C. Howard, of Bramfield, Suffolk, and Ruth Abercrombie, only daughter of the late Prof K.R. Walker and Dr J.A. Walker, of St Albans, Herts, and Eden, Banff.

Mr M. Humble and Miss E.L. London. The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr C.J. Humble, of Glastonbury, Somerset, and Mrs Anne Mountstephens, of Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jonathan London, of Piton, Somerset.

Mr D.K. Nutman and Miss L.F. Sonnex. The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Nutman, of Chesham, Bucks, and Laura, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Sonnex, of Jordans, Bucks.

Mr D.J. Phillips and Miss P.H. Young. The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs D.J. Phillips, of Romsey, Hampshire, and Rosemary, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Pettit, of Concombe, Dorset.

Mr A.C.A. Smith and Miss J.A. Darbyshire. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Captain W.G. Smith and the late Mrs E.D. Smith, of Wellington, Dorsetshire, and Jacqueline, daughter of Mr and Mrs F.G. Darbyshire, of Chislehampton, Devon.

Mr N.V.J. Stewart-Sandeman and Miss J.C. Humphrey. The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Mr Stewart-Sandeman and the late Lieutenant-Colonel N. Stewart-Sandeman, of Ardingly, Sussex, and Jane Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C.M. Humphrey, of Lindfield, Sussex.

Mr N.E. Sturt and Miss H.A. Freedy. The engagement is announced between Neil Kingsley, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Sturt, of Longstanton, Cambs, and Hilary Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Freedy, of Hemmington, E. Sussex.

Mr R.P.H. Swinglehurst and Miss F.L. Roberts. The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr John Swinglehurst, of Kensington, London, and Mrs Hazel Swinglehurst, of Bough Beech, Kent, and Fiona, only daughter of Dr and Mrs John Roberts, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

Mr D.G. Young and Miss A.J. Ray. The engagement is announced between Duncan Graham, younger son of Mr and Mrs J. Hynton Young, of Bolton Hall, nr Alnwick, Northumberland, and Alison Jean, only daughter of Mr Robert Ray and the late Sheila Ray, of Holland, formerly of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mr T. Manly and Miss H. Whittemore. The marriage took place on Saturday, April 7, at the church of St Mary the Virgin, Harfield, Sussex, of Mr Timothy Manly, son of Mr D.P. Harrison, of Bampton, Oxfordshire, and Miss Henrietta Whittemore, daughter of Mr and Mrs Francis Whittemore, of Harfield, Sussex. The Rev Victor Kingston officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mrs Dea and Rachel Whittemore. Mr Julian Day was the best man.

## PROFESSOR KENNETH NEWELL

Kenneth Wyatt Newell, Professor of Tropical Community Health at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine since 1984 and a former World Health Organisation senior official, has died aged 64. He was born on November 7, 1925.

A New Zealander born in India of Scottish missionary parents, it was Newell's early experience serving as the medical officer in the Maori Te Araroa area which laid the foundation of his life-long interest in involving communities fully in defining their health problems. He argued it would be best for their health if they helped the authorities in identifying priorities for action and selecting options for intervention in the context of their own cultures.

His devotion to this community at the time led the Ngati Porou tribe to sell some of their cattle in order to finance his further training in Britain - a remarkable gesture to a young man.

Newell, who had previously read medicine at the University of New Zealand, then completed his postgraduate training at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He was appointed to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Colindale, London, in 1954. He gained practical experience in using epidemiological methods for the control of infectious diseases.

Two years later, when a lecturer in epidemiology at Queen's University, Belfast, he focussed his research work on food poisoning, examining the role of salmonella organisms and tracing their circulation on the food chain of humans and of livestock. But Newell's chief field of interest remained health problems in developing countries, much of his knowledge gathered through direct working



experience in Asia, the Pacific, and Latin America.

A two-year assignment as a World Health Organisation epidemiologist in Indonesia was followed by a five-year period as director of field studies at the International Center for Medical Research and Training in Cali, Colombia.

The latter project linked the medical school in Cali with Tulane University Medical School, New Orleans, where, aged 35, Newell was appointed to his first chair as Professor of Epidemiology.

It was, however, during his 10 years at the Geneva headquarters of the WHO that his vision and leadership came to the fore. He set up a new Division of Research in Epidemiology and Communications Science, to use the combined skills of epidemiologists, statisticians and social scientists to tackle

the pressing health problems of the developing world.

From 1971 to 1977, he was Director of the WHO Division for the Strengthening of Health Services, which also included his former division. This was during the optimistic period which led up to the World Conference on Primary Health Care of 1978, held in Alma Ata, USSR, at which all governments adopted the goal of "Health for all by the year 2000".

Newell and his team had examined the role of community involvement in health development and, in 1975, published a compendium of analyses and examples of community health action in *Health by the People*, widely regarded as a classic text on the subject.

Feeling that he owed New Zealand the benefits of his experience and owed a debt to the country of his early forma-

tion, Newell decided in 1977 to return home, and took the post of Professor of Community Health at the Wellington School of Medicine.

He judged the time right because the health services were going through important changes. Old medical hierarchies were adapting to changed attitudes and there was an emerging commitment to primary health care. Newell was among the prime motivators in major changes, begun during his time in New Zealand, which included the development of area health boards, the establishment of the College of Community Medicine, and a postgraduate diploma in community health.

In 1984 Newell was appointed Professor of Tropical Community Health and Head of the Department of International Community Health at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

In 1985 he and his team started a research programme into hearing impairment and deafness in the developing world, with particular emphasis on the extent to which children under the age of 12 are affected. As part of this programme, the Liverpool Field Audiometer was designed and put into production and used in the first national survey conducted in Swaziland in 1987.

In 1986, at Newell's instigation, a School subsidiary company called Liverpool Associates in Tropical Health Ltd. was established, to secure contracts in health and health service development and to respond to the needs of funding agencies, such as the World Bank. He acted as consultant for an Asian Development Bank contract.

He is survived by his wife, Jane, and four sons.

## SIR GEOFFREY HARRISON



Sir Geoffrey Harrison, GCMG, KCVO, a former Deputy Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office and British Ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1965 to 1968, died aged 81 on April 12. He was born on July 18, 1908.

It was only right at the end of a distinguished career according to the conventions as a top diplomat that tragedy hit Geoffrey Harrison. In 1968, on the threshold of retirement, he told the Foreign Office he had been victim of a well-tried KGB ploy when he had a brief relationship with a woman agent planted by the Russians as a maid in the British Embassy in Moscow.

Harrison was immediately recalled by Michael Stewart, the then Foreign Secretary. Since it was just at the time of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia the public assumed it was a recall for "top-level consultations with 'Our Man in Moscow' as Brezhnev ordered in the tanks finally to terminate the "Prague Spring".

It was, however, only in 1981 that Harrison himself publicly admitted the dramatic end to his career. "Someone has stabbed me in the back," the former envoy told the press, adding: "It was a very silly thing to do. As a

trained diplomat it was an aberration on my part."

As he later put it in 1981, talking to *The Sunday Times*, he had let his defences drop. "Perhaps no one would really have known about it. But I believed it would have been wrong to keep quiet so I reported what had been happening. I felt that, however unpleasant the consequences might be, I had to tell the Foreign Office. Otherwise the Russians might try something." His wife backed him throughout the ordeal.

Sir Duncan Wilson was quickly nominated as the new British Ambassador in Moscow at such a critical time.

Geoffrey Wedgwood Harrison, the son of a lieutenant-commander in the Royal Navy, had entered the Foreign Service in 1932, after being educated at Winchester and King's College, Cambridge.

In the Berlin Embassy between 1937 and 1939 Harrison had direct experience as Hitler prepared relentlessly to plunge Europe into the Second World War. During that conflict he was one of the experts at the Foreign Office on Germany.

After a period as Counsellor in Brussels from 1945 to 1947 Harrison went for the first time to Moscow as British Minister for a two-year spell when the Cold War was at its height.

Back in London from 1951 as an Assistant Under-Secretary he was the British negotiator in the settlement of the post-war Trieste dispute between Yugoslavia and Italy. Harrison then continued his climb in the typical way, going as Ambassador to Brazil from 1956 to 1958 and transferring to Tehran where he stayed until 1963.

In 1936 he had married Amy, daughter of Sir Robert Clive, a former Ambassador to Japan. She survives him, together with their three sons and one daughter.

## ROSSELL HOPE ROBBINS

Rossell Hope Robbins, a distinguished British-born expert on medieval manuscripts, has died at his home in Saugerties, New York State, at the age of 77.

He was a man of frenetic energy, an extrovert, enthusiastic, gregarious, talkative, opinionated, unself-consciously and likeably vain - his car sported the number plate "CHAUCER 1".

He became a naturalised United States citizen in 1944, but his roots were English and was born in Wallasey in 1912. He attended the local grammar school and afterwards Liverpool University, graduating with a first in English in 1933.

After further study at Cambridge he then moved to America, where he met Carleton Brown, the expert on Middle English lyrics and their manuscripts and, with him, completed what is certainly his magnum opus, *The Index of Middle English Verse* (1943).

In 1939 he married Helen Ann Mins - he often liked to recall that they were married in the Offices of the Modern Language Association of America by the Rev. Carleton Brown.

His early teaching in America was interrupted by the Second World War. His career was again to be interrupted in the McCarthy era because of

his political beliefs. He managed to survive through a series of short-term visiting professorships.

But it was also a period of great productivity in which books and articles poured out. Ceaselessly he toured the learned libraries of the US, Britain and the Continent, hunting for more poems and scraps of poems for the *Supplement to the Index*.

In his visits to England it was Oxford, with its manuscripts and music, which became his spiritual home. He would spend the whole day at the Bodleian Library until he was ejected at closing time; the evening would be devoted to a learned paper or to convivial

ity. Writing up the material he had collected went on into the small hours.

In 1969 he was appointed to a Chair at the State University of New York at Albany, remaining there until his retirement.

The flow of articles continued, and he began to extend his own research library. This became the dominant passion of the final years of his life.

When he went abroad, it was increasingly to visit book-sellers and bookshops. The Rossell Hope Robbins Library is now housed in the University of Rochester, New York, and will be a lasting memorial to him and to his services to scholarship.

## HAROLD BALLARD

Harold Ballard, the colourful owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs, one of Canada's best-known ice hockey teams, died aged 86 in Toronto on April 11. He was born on July 30, 1903.

With an unerring talent for saying things guaranteed to cause commotion, Ballard was the darling of the Toronto news media, attracting more coverage than almost any Canadian politician.

Besides the National Hockey League team he also owned the Maple Leaf Gardens, the Leafs' home arena.

In 1983, in his own gesture of retaliation against the

shooting down of a South Korean airliner, Ballard suddenly cancelled a performance of the Moscow Circus at the packed Leaf Gardens.

Two years later, during the last minute of a game between the Canadian Olympic team and Moscow Dynamo, fans were startled to see a message which suddenly appeared on the scoreboard. It boldly intoned: "proclaim... Love... Air... James Flight 007 Shot Down By The Russians... Don't Cheer... Just Boo... Harold!"

Ballard was the son of a mechanic credited with having invented tube skates, the kind used by hockey players.

## When dinosaurs roamed through Alaska's woods

The riddle of how dinosaurs could have survived the cold climate of Alaska may be partly solved by new research on Alaskan fossil wood published in the latest issue of *Palaeontology* (vol. 33, pp. 225-242).

In the Cretaceous Period, some 100 million years ago, Alaska was more or less in the same position as it is today: the fact that it supported a thriving community of dinosaurs has been something of a puzzle. Some have used the very fact of arctic dinosaurs as evidence in favour of the idea that these animals were warm-blooded, like modern mammals and birds.

But an analysis of fossil wood from the Alaskan North Slope by Robert A. Spicer of Goldsmith's College, London, and Judith T. Parrish of the University of Arizona shows that although climate deteriorated towards the end of the Cretaceous Period (65 million years ago), it never declined to the glacial conditions of Alaska today, and woodlands marched almost to the shores of the Arctic Ocean.

The new data come from 15 specimens of fossil wood from the Kogosukruk Tongue, a group of Late Cretaceous rocks. The specimens represent six species of conifer, five of which are new to science. The preservation of the wood is exquisite: the researchers have been able to examine it right down to individual cells. The information gained reveals much about the environ-

ment in which the trees grew. The thickness of each growth ring in the fossil wood is a direct measure of the health and happiness of the tree at the time that particular ring was being formed.

Rapid growth at the height of the summer is preserved as a thick ring; thin rings mean slow growth, or even that growth has stopped altogether, such as during the winter. A clear, thick ring reads as a trouble-free, uninterrupted growing season, but interposed, thin "false" rings betray changeable weather, experienced by trees at the climatic limits of their normal ranges.

More detail still comes from analysing the wood laid down at different times during the growing season. The researchers have been able to distinguish between "early" and "late" wood, laid down respectively early and late in the growing season. Kogosukruk Tongue wood has rather narrow rings with abundant false rings, and a rather large proportion of late to early wood. The late wood records a gradual slowing of growth towards the end of the growing season, as if every year the trees fought a long, losing battle against the worsening weather.

Moreover, these same features can be seen in all the wood specimens examined, irrespective of their species, evidence that all the trees were responding to some common factor. This need not have been the average temperature.

Other things could have affected tree growth, such as flooding, fire or insect attack. To answer this question, the researchers compared the Kogosukruk fossils with specimens from the Nanushuk Group, a sequence of rocks formed a few million years earlier. Nanushuk trees grew in much the same environment as Kogosukruk trees, but seemed to have had an easier time. Their thick, untroubled growth rings testify to constant, equable summers, and the relatively little "late" wood implies that Nanushuk trees galloped right up to the end of the summer and then stopped growing abruptly.

In Cretaceous times, as now, Arctic regions had at most constant daylight for half the year and dusk for the rest. The Nanushuk trees soaked up every last drop of sunshine they could, suggesting that it was not temperature so much as the absence of light (a consequence of latitude rather than climate) that set the limits to growth. Kogosukruk trees, on the other hand, had to fight it out against declining temperature, and would have been less able to maintain growth for as long as daylight would allow. Deteriorating climate, then, seems to be the best explanation for the differences between the two fossil wood samples.

Henry Gee

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## Services for Easter Day

**CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL:** 10.30 am. Evensong. 11.15 am. Holy Communion. 1.30 pm. Holy Communion. 3.30 pm. Holy Communion. 5.30 pm. Holy Communion. 7.30 pm. Holy Communion. 9.30 pm. Holy Communion.

**ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1:** 10.30 am. Evensong. 11.15 am. Holy Communion. 1.30 pm. Holy Communion. 3.30 pm. Holy Communion. 5.30 pm. Holy Communion. 7.30 pm. Holy Communion. 9.30 pm. Holy Communion.

**ST. MARTIN, Tottenham Court Road, W1:** 10.30 am. Evensong. 11.15 am. Holy Communion. 1.30 pm. Holy Communion. 3.30 pm. Holy Communion. 5.30 pm. Holy Communion. 7.30 pm. Holy Communion. 9.30 pm. Holy Communion.

**ST. MARK'S, Tottenham Court Road, W1:** 10.30 am. Evensong. 11.15 am. Holy Communion. 1.30 pm. Holy Communion. 3.30 pm. Holy Communion. 5.30 pm. Holy Communion. 7.30 pm. Holy Communion. 9.30 pm. Holy Communion.

**ST. GEORGE'S, Tottenham Court Road, W1:** 10.30 am. Evensong. 11.15 am. Holy Communion. 1.30 pm. Holy Communion. 3.30 pm. Holy Communion. 5.30 pm. Holy Communion. 7.30 pm. Holy Communion. 9.30 pm. Holy Communion.

**ST. ANDREW'S, Tottenham Court Road, W1:** 10.30 am. Evensong. 11.15 am. Holy Communion. 1.30 pm. Holy Communion. 3.30 pm. Holy Communion. 5.30 pm. Holy Communion. 7.30 pm. Holy Communion. 9.30 pm. Holy Communion.

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**ST. PETER'S, Tottenham Court Road, W1:** 10.30 am. Evensong. 11.15 am. Holy Communion. 1.30 pm. Holy Communion. 3.30 pm. Holy Communion. 5.30 pm. Holy Communion. 7.30 pm. Holy Communion. 9.30 pm. Holy Communion.

**ST. PAUL'S, Tottenham Court Road, W1:** 10.30 am. Evensong. 11.15 am. Holy Communion. 1.30 pm. Holy Communion. 3.30 pm. Holy Communion. 5.30 pm. Holy Communion. 7.30 pm. Holy Communion. 9.30 pm. Holy Communion.

**ST. MICHAEL'S, Tottenham Court Road, W1:** 10.30 am. Evensong. 11.15 am. Holy Communion. 1.30 pm. Holy Communion. 3.30 pm. Holy Communion. 5.30 pm. Holy Communion. 7.30 pm. Holy Communion. 9.30 pm. Holy Communion.

**ST. NICHOLAS, Tottenham Court Road, W1:** 10.30 am. Evensong. 11.15 am. Holy Communion. 1.30 pm. Holy Communion. 3.30 pm. Holy Communion. 5.30 pm. Holy Communion. 7.30 pm. Holy Communion. 9.30 pm. Holy Communion.

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**ALL HALLOWS, Tottenham Court Road, W1:** 10.30 am. Evensong. 11.15 am. Holy Communion. 1.30 pm. Holy Communion. 3.30 pm. Holy Communion. 5.30 pm. Holy Communion. 7.30 pm. Holy Communion. 9.30 pm. Holy Communion.

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**ST. GEORGE'S, Tottenham Court Road**



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 Hougland; N Hougland; N A. Jones; S

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**M H Jepson BPharm (Lond),  
MSc (City); Vision Sciences;  
Mr D A Barnes MSc, FBCO.**

Hall, J.W. Herndon, Q.G. Holland,  
 R.A.B. Holland, S. Honari, J.A.  
 Ingram, H.A. Khan, S.N.V.  
 Kwana, D.P. Landranchi, K.H.  
 Lim, H.C. Low, A.A. Mahabir, J.S.  
 Mitchell, V.I. Nikolskaya, B.A.K.K.  
 Nuraida, K.M. Oso, V.I. Paros, J.  
 V. A. Rado, R. Ramcharan

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PROFESSOR N.B.K. Reeves,  
MA, DPhil (Oxf) to Chair in  
Modern Languages. Profes-  
sor Reeves is Professor of  
German and Dean of the

Faculty of Human Studies at Surrey University.

Dr J Hooley, BSc, PhD (Warw) to Chair in Marketing in the Aston Business School. Professor Hooley is Professor of Marketing and Director of the Advanced Business Programme at the University of Otago, New Zealand.

Internal promotions to chairs:

Civil Engineering: Dr C L Page MA, PhD (Cambr); Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Applied Physics: Dr R V Latham PhD, DSc (Lond), CPhys, FIInstP, CEng, MIEE; Mechanical and Production Engineering: Dr J B Stiles BSc (Birm), DSc, Modern Languages: Dr L Hanrahan BA (Lond), PhD (Finl); Pharmaceutical Sciences: Dr A Ghescher BSc (Frankfurt) PhD (Wurtzburg); Chemical Engineering: Dr D Ashton; Pharmaceutical Sciences: Dr M Turdale BSc, PhD (Hull), DSc (Lond).

Internal promotions to senior lecturer:

Business School: Dr H F Steward MSc, PhD (Manc); Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Applied Physics: Dr R J Brewster BSc, PhD, CEng, Dr J J Sullivan BSc, PhD; Modern Languages: Dr J M Gaffney MA, DPhil (Sus); Dr R A M Woods BA (Rdg), MA (Lond), PhD (Ox); Pharmaceutical Sciences: Dr M H Jepson BPharm (Lond), MSc (City); Vision Sciences: Mr D A Barnes MSc, FBCO.



## SATURDAY'S TELEVISION AND RADIO

Portrait  
of the  
artist

## TELEVISION CHOICE

Jasper Rees

● The pick of a poor Easter Saturday schedule is a Sir Kenneth MacMillan double bill. Out of Line (BBC2, 7.50pm) profiles the choreographer on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday and follows it up at 8.55pm with a Royal Ballet performance of his latest work *The Prince of the Pagodas*, set to Britten's only ballet score. Derek Bailey's rather arch commentary explains that MacMillan has always been "a highly controversial figure" (his work is perpetually booed in Berlin and New York, where he once had to take up the offer of a bodyguard). MacMillan himself claims that he has always felt excluded from dance's old boy network, though since the death of Sir Frederick Ashton the mantle of grand old man of British ballet has been thrust upon him. Passing judgement, Clive Barnes of the *New York Post* is surely ascribe, while Ninette de Valois plays the gushing grand dame to perfection. As well as many quotations from his *oeuvre*, there are assessments from his muses, Lynn Seymour and Alessandra Ferri.



Kenneth MacMillan: sixtieth birthday tribute (BBC2, 7.50pm)

● At 91 episodes, the indigenous version of *Mahabharat* (BBC2, 2.35pm) easily outdistances the Peter Brook theatrical adaptation which divided opinion when it was shown on Channel 4 in December, but comparisons will inevitably occur. *The Radio Times* glibly bills the series as "Dallas, Dynasty, *Neighbours* and *East-Enders* rolled into one", which suggests that someone, somewhere, lacks confidence in the epic product. At 15 times the length of the Bible, it deserves a less pejorative introduction than that. Apparently it enjoys an audience of 115 million in India, though to what extent that is a massaged figure one cannot know. Dialogue is in Hindi with English subtitles.

● As titles go, *Nothing Like a Royal Show* (ITV, 9pm) is dangerously double-edged. Happily the cast list for this charity gala in aid of the Entertainment Artists' Benevolent Fund includes enough pedigree to counteract the low expectations one tends to have of such events. Compered by Jools Holland, the emphasis is on alternative comedy, with bits from, among many others, Julian Clary, Hale and Pace and Jeremy Hardy. ● Jeremy Beadle's detractors seem to be more vociferous than his acolytes, but the one supportive thing you can say about *You've Been Framed!* (ITV, 6.10pm) is that, rather than do it for them, this time our low-profile host lets his guests stitch themselves up by sending in their japeish home videos.

## BBC 1

7.25 Mother Teresa with a prayer for farmers  
7.30 Saturday Starts Here! presented by Wayne Jackson and Ian Treganion, begins with Playdays (7.55 Laurel and Hardy: Cartoon) (7.55) New Adventures of Mighty Mouse  
8.15 Tales of the Rodent Sherlock Holmes. The guest is Liz Smith 8.35 Thundercats (r)  
9.00 Gong Live! Philip Schofield and Sarah Greene introduce the last in the series of the children's magazine. Their special guests are Kylie Minogue, Jonathan Ross, *Neighbours* actor Guy Pierce and singer Paula Abdul 12.12

Weather  
12.15 Grandstand introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Football: a preview of the weekend's matches; 12.30, 2.05, 3.30 and 4.00 Snooker: first round action in the Embassy World Professional Championship; 1.00 News; 1.05, 2.35 and 3.05 Swimming: the TSB British Club Team championship from Leeds; 1.30 Baseball: the final of the Caribbean Nations championship final from the NEC, Birmingham; 1.55, 2.25 and 2.55 Racing from Haydock Park; 3.50 Football: first round action in the UEFA Cup; 4.35 Cricket: highlights from the first session of the fifth Test between West Indies and England in Antigua; 4.40 Final Score

5.25 News with Moira Stuart. Weather 5.15 Regional News and Sport 5.20 Stay Tuned! More behind-the-scenes stories from the world of animation, presented by Tony Robinson. This week he focuses on *Scars of the Moon*. 5.45 The Flying Doctors. More dramas for the Coopers Crossing-based flying medics. Two strangers arrive at the outbreak town — one an artist who hopes to revive his flagging fortunes by painting beautiful landscapes, the other his agent. Their eccentric behaviour is a cause of alarm for Chris and Geoff.

6.30 Opportunity Knocks. Les Dawson introduces another six showbiz hopefuls — two comedians, a dance group, a pianist and two solo singers  
7.30 Three Up, Two Down. Re-run of a slightly funnier than average sitcom, starring Michael Elphick as the rough and ready Sam who fancies his son's snooty mother-in-law, Daphne (Angela Thorne) (r)

7.50 Film: *The Case of the Scandalous Scoundrel* (1987) starring Raymond Burr. Another courtroom drama with the large lawyer holding centre stage. Tonight he is defending a reporter accused of killing a notorious scandal magazine publisher, with whom it is rumoured she was having an affair. The assiduous Mr Mason's investigations uncover four other prominent suspects — and a case of blackmail. Directed by Christian I. Nyby II (Cecil)

8.20 News with Philip Hayton. Sport and weather  
8.40 Casualty: Accidents Happen. Well-acted and authentic drama series set in a general hospital's casualty ward. Tonight a woman undergoes emergency surgery after falling down stairs when going to answer the front door. The husband blames the mentally handicapped boy who called at the house at the time of the accident — but later has to reassess his opinion of the young man. Starring Brenda Fricker and Russell Hopton (r) (Cecil)

10.30 Paramount City. Offbeat funster comedy and musical from here and America, recorded at London's Paramount City Theatre. Tonight's guests include one of the US's top comedienne, Pamela Matson  
11.10 Film: *Prize of Peril* (1984). Black comedy thriller starring Gerard Llanvin, Michel Piccoli and Marie-France Pisier. Constantine in a concert television game show when a million dollars — if they can elude a death squad hunting them down through the streets of Paris. Directed by Yves Boisset

12.35 News International Cricket. Tony Lewis presents highlights of play on the second day in the fifth Test between West Indies and England in Antigua  
1.05 Mother Teresa with a prayer for those whose harvest fail  
1.10 Weather

## ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with News read by Louise Bevan followed by Good Morning Moments. Ulrika Jonsson looks back at the lighter moments of the week's TV-am programmes 7.00 News and WAC 30. Children's entertainment, presented by Michaela Strachan and Mike Brosnan  
9.25 Motormouth 2. Today's programme features Kim Wilde performing her new single, plus Kylie Minogue's latest video. Also included is a drumming extravaganza with Luke Crosswell and a behind-the-scenes look at the new serial *The Castle of Adventure*, by End Byron. Plus cartoon action at 9.45 with *Scoby Doo* and at 10.30 with *The Real Ghostbusters*

11.30 The ITV Chart Show. This week's Vintage Video features the Beatles 12.30 The Mummies Today: Two Left Feet. Shoddy attempt to resurrect the cult Sholes comedy-horror series

1.00 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 1.05 LWT News and weather 1.10 Saint and Gravelle. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves provide their own brand of analysis of the holiday weekend's football action including the Scottish Cup semi-finals being played this afternoon — Clydebank versus Celtic and Dundee United against Aberdeen

1.40 Sportsman. Dickie Davies hosts the last quarter-final of this competition between sporting brains from across the country  
2.10 Coronation Street. One-off episode of Wednesday's and Friday's episodes (r)

3.05 Mellock: The Lemon. Courtroom drama starring Andy Griffiths as a defence lawyer, in this case defending his new neighbour accused of killing a car salesman

4.05 Kates and Dog. Light-hearted police series starring Tim Tin III 4.25 Caravan. Peter Dinklage 4.45 Resolute Service 5.00 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 5.05 LWT News and weather

5.15 Baywatch. We Need a Vacation. Inmate, but harmless, series centred around the vacant bunkers and pouting bimbos who man a lifeguard station on a Los Angeles beach (Oracle)

5.10 You've Been Framed! (see Choice) 6.40 You Bet Bruce Forsyth hosts another round of the programme that dares the great British public to attempt obscure acts to be bet on by some "great British celebrities" with the proceeds going to charity. This week's challenges include two tyre flairs under pressure and a champagne flight with the RAF. The celebrity guests include Linda Lusardi, James Marcus and Peter Alms

7.40 The Sweeney: Trunk Stop. Angela Lansbury stars as the gentle crime writer turned detective. This week she investigates the demise of a screenwriter who is murdered at a truck-stop. He had tape-recorded the events leading up to his murder, confessing to a killing he himself committed in the past

8.40 News and weather 8.55 LWT Weather 9.00 Nothing Like a Royal Show (see Choice)

11.15 World Championship Boxing. Reg Gutteridge and Jim Watt are at London's Royal Albert Hall for the WBA Middleweight championship fight between Mike McCab, the holder from Jamaica, and Britain's Michael Watson

12.15 Film: *Star 80* (1980) starring Richard Pryor, Gene Wilder and Joseph Williams. Two New Yorkers on their way to California seeking fame and fortune are framed for a bank robbery and given 125-year sentences each. This gives both Pryor and Wilder all the excuse they need to lapse into very funny parody of the genre. Directed by Sidney Potter. Followed by News headlines

2.30 Golf: The US PGA Seniors Tour. Highlights of the third round

3.30 Film: *Scars of the Moon* (1987) starring James Woods, Yaphet Kotto and Alex Rocco. An exciting police drama about a life-threatening Manhattan assistant district attorney who led a campaign in the 1970s to locate the killers of two policemen. Directed by Mel Damski

5.00 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00

## BBC 2

9.00 Film: *Spirit of the People* (1940). A faithful adaptation of Robert Sherwood's Pulitzer prize-winning play about the life of Abraham Lincoln, tracing his career from his roots as a backwoodsman, through his work as a lawyer to his election to the White House. With Gene Lockhart and Ruth Gordon. Directed by John Cromwell

10.45 Film: *Smooches*. Dean Reynolds v Peter Francisco and Willie Thorne v Tony Drago are two of the first-round matches being played in the Embassy World Professional Championships. Introduced from the Crucible Theatre by David Vine

12.15 Film: *Genji* (1985) starring Omar Sharif, Stephen Boyd and Francis Ford Coppola. A reliable account of the life of the 12th-century warrior who united the Mongols into a force to be reckoned with. A wonderful script is not saved by a clutch of fairly poor actors in cameo roles, including James Mason, Robert Morley and El Wailach. Directed by Henry Levin

2.15 The Sky at Night. Patrick Moore talks about Leo and Cancer, two of the zodiac constellations to be seen this month

2.35 Mahabharat (see Choice) 3.15 Film: *The First Legend* (1951, b/w) starring Charles Boyer. An old priest recovers from a coma in a small town Jesuit seminary and, believing it to be a miracle, pilgrims flock to the seminary, including one small crippled girl. Good performances from the cast, particularly Boyer, make this an above average religious film. Directed by Douglas Sirk

4.40 Film: *Taza, Son of Cochise* (1954) starring Robert Houston. Western adventure, originally made in 3D, about two Red Indian brothers, one determined to fight the white man, the other looking for peace. Unusually for a Western, the treatment of Indians is largely sympathetic and that is what gives this film its strength. Directed by Douglas Sirk

5.55 Film: *Smooches*. Continuing coverage of the first-round matches of the Embassy World Professional Championships

7.05 NewsView with Moira Stuart and Lynette Lingham. Weather 7.50 You Bet Bruce (see Choice) 8.55 The Palace of the Pagodas. The Royal Ballet perform MacMillan's newest creation, at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. A fairy-tale about a princess who redeems a sardonic prince with a sword. The music is by Benjamin Britten, his only ballet score

11.05 World Smoother. Alex Higgins and Steve James battle it out tonight, and there's also coverage of the match between the two Cliffs, Wilson and Thorburn. Ends at 12.30am

## VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALSLEY 5.45pm News on Saturday 6.05-6.30pm Stay Tuned SCOTLAND 12.20pm-12.30pm, 2.05-2.30pm and 3.40-4.10pm. 4.45pm Film: *Madame T. T.* 4.50-5.00pm. 5.15-5.20pm Scottish News and Sport 5.20-5.30pm. 5.35-5.40pm. 5.45-5.50pm. 5.55-6.00pm. 6.05-6.10pm. 6.15-6.20pm. 6.25-6.30pm. 6.35-6.40pm. 6.45-6.50pm. 6.55-7.00pm. 7.05-7.10pm. 7.15-7.20pm. 7.25-7.30pm. 7.35-7.40pm. 7.45-7.50pm. 7.55-8.00pm. 8.05-8.10pm. 8.15-8.20pm. 8.25-8.30pm. 8.35-8.40pm. 8.45-8.50pm. 8.55-9.00pm. 9.05-9.10pm. 9.15-9.20pm. 9.25-9.30pm. 9.35-9.40pm. 9.45-9.50pm. 9.55-10.00pm. 10.05-10.10pm. 10.15-10.20pm. 10.25-10.30pm. 10.35-10.40pm. 10.45-10.50pm. 10.55-11.00pm. 11.05-11.10pm. 11.15-11.20pm. 11.25-11.30pm. 11.35-11.40pm. 11.45-11.50pm. 11.55-12.00pm. 12.05-12.10pm. 12.15-12.20pm. 12.25-12.30pm. 12.35-12.40pm. 12.45-12.50pm. 12.55-1.00pm. 1.05-1.10pm. 1.15-1.20pm. 1.25-1.30pm. 1.35-1.40pm. 1.45-1.50pm. 1.55-2.00pm. 2.05-2.10pm. 2.15-2.20pm. 2.25-2.30pm. 2.35-2.40pm. 2.45-2.50pm. 2.55-3.00pm. 3.05-3.10pm. 3.15-3.20pm. 3.25-3.30pm. 3.35-3.40pm. 3.45-3.50pm. 3.55-4.00pm. 4.05-4.10pm. 4.15-4.20pm. 4.25-4.30pm. 4.35-4.40pm. 4.45-4.50pm. 4.55-5.00pm. 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## BUSINESS

SECTION 2

SATURDAY APRIL 14 1990

BTR claims 64% of Norton  
as court battle continues

By Stephen Leather, London, and John Darie, New York



Cahill: speaking talks

BTR, the manufacturing conglomerate chaired by Sir Owen Green, has gained a majority stake in Norton, the Massachusetts-based heavy equipment producer.

The company said yesterday that it has received 11.8 million shares in response to its \$75-a-share tender offer giving it a total of 64.1 per cent of Norton.

It has extended its offer, which values Norton at \$1.6 billion, to April 27.

A United States Appeals Court has rejected Norton's request to delay a lower court's order that it must hold its annual meeting as planned on April 26. But the court said it would agree to an early hearing on Tuesday to hear Norton's arguments.

Norton wants to delay the annual meeting, at which it expects a head-on confrontation with BTR, while it searches for a white knight.

Norton's legal fight comes as New York Stock Exchange trading suggests the market is expecting a higher bid from

BTR. Norton shares closed on Thursday at \$77.25, up \$1.25 on the day after heavy trading of 152,000 shares.

Most US analysts reckon the offer undervalues Norton, and Mr John Cahill, BTR's chief executive, has already raised the prospect of a higher bid should the Norton board become more co-operative.

Mr Cahill said BTR would be willing to consider increasing its offer if Norton provided information showing that a higher price is warranted.

He made the offer in a letter to Norton's chairman and chief executive, Mr John Nelson, in which Mr Cahill appealed for him to begin discussions with BTR.

"I urge clear reason with illumination of facts to prevail over a veil of hysteria of the moment."

"I am sure if you take that approach, BTR's offer will be seen as the alternative most beneficial to Norton's employees, stockholders and the community of Worcester

(where Norton is based)," he wrote. "Discussion with BTR will serve to allay any fears you may have and establish the basis for reasoned action."

He added: "After repeated attempts, I have been unable to obtain information from the company or discuss and develop plans for the company with either the management or its board of directors. I hope we can establish such a dialogue."

The terms of the BTR offer stipulated the bid would proceed only if it received two-thirds acceptance from Norton shareholders.

Uncertainty over whether BTR will raise its offer may account for the fact that it has so far failed to make the two-thirds acceptance level.

Mr Cahill told the Norton board: "If the company can demonstrate to BTR additional value, BTR would be willing to consider increasing its offer."

"Ironically, at the same time that management apparently feel it is in Norton's best

interests to ignore as the board has authorised the company to provide certain confidential information to interested parties. The board, consistent with its fiduciary duties, should provide us promptly with the same confidential business and financial information."

Norton has declined Mr Cahill's repeated request to see the company's confidential financial data because it requires BTR to sign a standard agreement before it allows release of the documents.

But in his letter to Mr Nelson, Mr Cahill said BTR was exercising its statutory rights as a shareholder to inspect the confidential information which had been supplied to third parties.

Mr Christopher Bull, BTR's financial director, last night said Mr Nelson had still not replied to the letter, or responded to BTR's phone calls.

Mr Cahill also warned that Norton should not burden itself with extra debt in its

attempts to escape BTR's clutches.

"Such high leverage will severely restrict Norton's ability to invest in R&D, fund capital expenditures, develop benefits and other programmes for its employees and enter new markets," he said. He added: "These limits will in turn lead to decreased sales, decreased margins and decreased employment."

Mr Cahill's comments add further to a bitter takeover fight in which Norton has attempted to raise public support against a takeover from a foreign firm.

Norton has a "poison pill" provision which would allow shareholders to acquire stock at half-price under certain circumstances, and BTR has already begun legal proceedings to block such moves.

A spokesman for Norton declined to comment on BTR's claimed 64 per cent acceptance.

BTR plans to finance its bid by debt, which will raise its gearing to almost 70 per cent.

## Five-year terms for directors urged

From Our Correspondent New York

ONE of the lawyers helping Norton fight BTR is calling for directors to be given the right to stay on their boards for at least five years.

Mr Mary Lipton, of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen and Katz, which is helping Norton defend the BTR bid, says directors should be guaranteed a five-year term and that they should be judged on the basis of their firm's past record and its plans for the next five years.

This would prevent predators voting directors off the board during takeover battles. One of BTR's options at the forthcoming Norton annual meeting is to use proxy votes to oust directors and take control of the company.

With the downturn in the junk bond market and a more conservative attitude by banks to leveraged takeovers, US corporate raiders are increasingly turning to proxy fights to take control of companies. The US pension fund industry is also seeking more control over management through a streamlined proxy process.

In the wake of the takeover boom, some states are introducing anti-takeover laws to help their home companies.

Mr Lipton told clients that the present system of corporate governance "stems from the days when shareholders were real owners, not transitory professional investors; when there were no tender offers, no risk arbitrageurs, no junk bonds and no pressure on both corporate management and institutional investment managers to show ever better quarterly performance."

The process, he said, "tends itself to abuse by corporate raiders whose only objective is their own enrichment."

Mr Lipton said a five-year board term would mean a company's board could only be altered on the basis of its past record and its plans for the next five years. This "would assure that the directors perform their principal function of choosing competent managers and holding those managers to achieving their business plans."

"By preventing hostile takeovers between the five-year intervals the system would facilitate negotiated acquisitions, particularly common stock mergers that avoid the undue leverage now plaguing American business."

The US Treasury Secretary, Mr Nicholas Brady, who supports Mr Lipton's call for more long-term investment strategies, has acknowledged deficiencies in the US shareholder proxy system. His department is examining ways to encourage longer term investment and ways to open companies more to shareholder demands.

## Spitalfields plan nears decision day

By Matthew Bond

THE plans to redevelop the Spitalfields fruit and vegetable market in London's East End are expected to come before the planning authorities just days before next month's local elections.

The controversial plan devised by Swanke Hayden Connell, the American architect, to build 800,000 sq ft of offices and 200,000 sq ft of shops, is scheduled to be considered by the Bethnal Green neighbourhood committee in about 10 days, a week before the elections on May 3. The revised plan was submitted in January.

If the committee gives the £500 million scheme its approval, a meeting of the full council's policy and resources committee could ratify the decision just a day or two before the voters of Tower Hamlets go to the polls.

Tower Hamlets is equally split between Liberal and Labour councillors, with the Liberal mayor having the casting vote. National opinion polls would suggest control passing to Labour.

The next fortnight is thus of paramount importance to the three members of the Spitalfields Development Group - London & Edinburgh Trust (now part of the Swedish pension group SPP), Balfour Beatty (the construction arm of BICC), and County & District Properties (the property arm of Costain).

If the nine-member neighbourhood committee, which has a Liberal majority of three, rejects the application, SDG can appeal directly to the Department of Environment. A decision deferred until after the elections would leave the scheme facing a far more hostile planning environment, which could also lead to the DoE making the decision.

Mr Brian Cheetham, SDG chief executive, is confident that after six years of planning and consultation, the current scheme is a good one. But it is not inviolate.

If the scheme does obtain approval, Goldman Sachs, SDG's adviser, will be able to pursue its brief of finding a fourth member of the consortium. "Each stage we get through, we eliminate another layer of risk," Mr Cheetham said. "It is the intention at the appropriate stage to bring in



Man of vision: Brian Cheetham, chief executive of the Spitalfields Development Group, on some of the most expensive land outside the City

an additional partner, or additional partners. We would hope that SDG would operate as a completely independent property company and be financed in a few years."

If SDG does win approval it will end up paying about £120 million for the 12-acre site. Some £60 million is being spent on building a new fruit and vegetable market on a 32-acre site at Temple Mills, while the remaining £60 million is the premium SDG will pay the City Corporation for a new 150-year lease once the present market closes, towards the end of this year.

At £10 million an acre, the Spitalfields land is some of the most expensive to be found outside the central City core.

SDG intends to build 118 flats and houses for local housing authorities, including some units designed for families of 12-14. Designed by

Colquhoun, Miller & Partners, Mr Cheetham hopes the house will raise a new standard for social housing.

But it is the scale of the commercial development - the seven office buildings and the shopping gallery designed by Señor Santiago Calatrava, the Spanish architect - that has prompted most controversy and on which attention will focus.

Mr Cheetham says the amount of commercial development is vital, if SDG is to pay for the new market, the social housing, and the open spaces. Not forgetting, he says, two new theatres, a £5 million grant to a Community trust and a £750,000 commitment to training. Adding in the land cost, the total value of SDG's planning gain package approaches £100 million.

Tower Hamlets' devoted structure, whereby a nine-member committee determines a scheme, emphasises how planning has changed since the passing of the Greater London Council.

Within a stone's throw of Spitalfields are two other sites, the Bishopsgate goods yard and the Brick Lane Brewery (LEF) which interests in both which together offer more than 20 acres for development. Would the three separate schemes not benefit from a spot of old-fashioned town planning that reflect the needs not just of the immediate community but also the needs of London as a whole? Mr Cheetham would not disagree.

"I regret the passing of the GLC in planning terms. There is no one left to take a broader view of planning matters. It was an extra stage one had to get through, but I found it to be a helpful stage most of the time."

## US roadshows reveal hidden support for aero-engine maker

## R-R investors to come out of the closet

By David Brewerton

ROLLS-ROYCE is more popular in the United States than it thought. According to the share register, only about 2 per cent of the capital is held by United States institutions, but it emerged this week that twice that amount could be held by US investors.

This came to light at a series of "roadshows" held in America to promote appreciation of Rolls-Royce shares. As the roadshow hit a series of cities across the country, local fund managers would sidle up after the presentation to admit they were already shareholders through nominees.

Within the next week or two, they will be able to come out of the closet for Rolls-Royce is arranging an American Depository Receipt facility for American investors. The company is awaiting final approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission before making the

facility public. The roadshow has already stimulated demand for Rolls-Royce shares, with turnover this week greater than for some time. At present there are no plans for a US listing, although if a local listing is required to stimulate demand Rolls-Royce is ready to seek one.

American financial institutions have an average of only 3 per cent of their funds invested overseas, and Rolls-Royce is hoping that the strong demand for civil aircraft across the world will prompt them to invest in the only major engine builder outside the US.

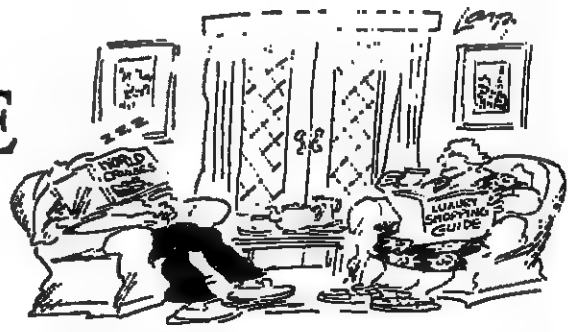
The shares have been a poor performer since they were floated just before the October 1987 crash, and a number of overseas investors were soured towards the company by being forced, under the articles of association, to sell their holdings after the market collapse.

The company is now attempting to take advantage of the increase in the level of permitted foreign shareholdings from 15 per cent to 29.5 per cent agreed last year, which has had a very limited impact on the actual level of overseas holdings, which remains below 16 per cent.

The America roadshow is to be followed by presentations across Europe and in Japan later this year.

Rolls-Royce's annual report is now going out to the company's 800,000 shareholders, and Lord Tombs, the chairman, declares that prospects for the enlarged group are encouraging.

The company, the smallest of the "big three" aero-engine makers, is determined to keep a strong balance sheet, and at the end of 1989 there was net cash in the group balance sheet of more than £200 million.

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Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.5425 (+0.0040)

W German mark  
2.7487 (-0.0286)

Exchange index  
87.0 (-0.5)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1741.0 (+0.8)

FT-SE 100  
2222.1 (+1.0)

USM (Datastream)  
140.82 (-0.47)

## Euro code would hit cashpoint card users

By Jon Ashworth

CASHPOINT card users will be made responsible for mistakes made in their bank or building society accounts through no fault of their own if a European code of practice is taken up.

The code, which looks at the use of debit and cashpoint cards, has been attacked as "unreasonable and unfair" by the Consumers' Association (CA). A clause would allow banks and societies to wash their hands of any mistakes made by their staff, unless customers notified them at once.

At the moment, it is usual for cardholders to tell the issuer as soon as possible if a card is lost or stolen.

But, under the code, they would also have to report any unauthorised transactions or mistakes made by the issuer - switching the emphasis for spotting mistakes from the bank or society to their customers.

To make matters worse, the code insists that cardholders must not only take measures to become immediately aware of such problems, but prove that they have done so.

This would mean proving that card statements had been checked in detail as soon as they dropped through the letter box.

If cardholders could not prove this, they would presumably be liable for any fraudulent transactions shown on the statements.

The CA said it should be up to card companies to monitor their own mistakes, not the consumer.

Miss Jane Vass, the head of the CA's Money Group, said she was "very disappointed" with the new code. She said: "Despite some reforms, the code is very much a missed opportunity for consumers. It is especially galling when the UK White Paper on banking shows what can be done to promote 'full and fair' contracts between card issuers and holders."

The White Paper recommended that a customer's liability for the loss or theft of a debit card should be restricted to £50. The code is likely to come as a blow to banks and societies, which are trying to encourage their customers to use debit cards rather than cheques to pay for goods.

The code of practice was prepared by the European Credit Sector Associations. It applies only to debit and cashpoint cards, not credit cards.

## Move to oust MMI director

MR BARRY Phelps, a former City journalist who is managing director of the MMI financial PR and marketing consultancy, is to resist moves by MMI and Mr Patrick Morris, its chairman, to oust him from the board.

MMI has called an extraordinary general meeting for the Monday after next for the sole purpose of removing him. Mr Phelps alleges constructive dismissal.

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia S	2.25	2.10
Austria Sch	20.25	19.85
Canada P	20.25	19.85
Denmark Kr	1.97	1.97
Finland Mk	11.94	11.94
France F	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	2.28	2.70
Greece Dr	10.45	9.55
Hong Kong S	13.45	12.25
India Ru	1.08	1.01
Italy Lit	2120	1950
Japan Yen	172	172
Netherlands Gld	3.22	3.04
Norway Kr	11.24	11.54
Portugal Esc	208.25	204.25
South Africa Rd	4.90	4.40
Spain Ptas	162	170
Sweden Kr	10.45	9.55
Switzerland Fr	2.345	2.285
Taiwan NTA	4.55	3.25
Thailand Ba	1.74	1.624
Yugoslavia Din	refr	refr

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 125.2 (February)

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# Bridge offers light at the end of the tunnel

By Martin Waller

MOTORISTS queuing for a slow getaway out of London this bank holiday weekend can take heart — help is at hand, at least on the notorious M25 Thames crossing at Dartford.

But the bad news is that the £86 million Dartford Bridge will probably not arrive before the next Easter holiday. It is scheduled to open next summer.

Mr Dick Gillespie, pictured right, had a bird's eye view of the traffic jams building up before the bank holiday as he surveyed work completed on the bridge so far.

He is managing director of Dartford River Crossing, a company which is 49 per cent-owned by Trafalgar House, two of whose subsidiaries are building the bridge.

The rest is held equally by Kleinwort Benson, Bank of America and the Prudential. Since 1988 the company has also operated the two tunnels that cross the Thames at Dartford.

When the first opened in 1963 just 4 million cars a year crossed the river there; traffic densities now are 30 million and climbing.

The bridge, which with the adjoining viaduct will run for 2.8 kilometres, will take up a total of 19,000 tonnes of structural steel.

It will provide a four-lane crossing to soak up some of the excess traffic which is causing congestion in the tunnels.

High winds earlier this year pushed the construction programme a couple of weeks off course, and the builders are now striving to make this up.

The company is confident the bridge will be open by next summer but is wary of setting an exact date.

"So much depends on the weather," says Mr Gillespie.



## Japanese banks are wary of UAL deal

Tokyo JAPANESE banks will scrutinize very carefully the new buyout plan for UAL, the parent of United Airlines, before committing themselves if they are formally asked to help fund the \$4.4 billion deal, banking sources said.

Japanese institutions would be particularly cautious because a previous \$6.8 billion management-led bid for the US company collapsed in October. Japanese banks' reluctance to provide financing was largely blamed for the failure.

The sources said Japanese banks are now waiting for details on the financing of the agreement between the UAL board and the unions earlier this week to sell the firm to its unions for \$4.4 billion.

The unions have formed a company called United Employee Acquisition Corp to act as the vehicle for the buyout.

The sources said the climate for leveraged buyouts has become increasingly unfavourable following the near-collapse of the junk bond market.

There's a lot of uncertainty surrounding the future of the US airline industry, and the UAL deal should therefore need a solid financing scheme, said one source. He added that if the UAL deal was too highly leveraged, it might fail again.

Under the agreement, each UAL share would be exchanged for \$155 in cash, \$35 worth of high-yield securities and \$11 worth of stock in a UAL airline reservations subsidiary.

## Hilton Hotels remains on the auction block

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

HILTON Hotels, the shares of which doubled and then halved in a takeover frenzy last year, is still up for sale, despite management announcements that the international group was being taken off the auction block when it failed to reach its reserve price last month.

Industry analysts say it is still on the market and the company admits it has not closed the door completely on a takeover.

Mr Roy Judge, a company spokesman, said: "We have a fiduciary duty to maximize shareholder value and if someone comes along with an offer we would be legally bound to look at it."

"We have not completely closed the door, although it is now business as usual and we are getting on with running it as an independent concern."

Speculation of a bid last February sent the Hilton share price from \$50 to a \$115.50 in

eight months, valuing the company at almost \$6 billion. The 34 per cent stake in the company, owned by Mr Barron Hilton, its chairman and chief executive, was worth more than \$2 billion.

At last night's price the entire company — the twelfth most-esteemed brand name in the world, with 280 US hotels and the famous Waldorf-Astoria in New York — is worth \$2.43 billion.

The Hilton takeover became a casualty of the stock market fall, and the collapse of the junk bond market.

Industry sources believe the two bidders are still there: Northwest Airlines, led by Mr Alfred Checchi, former Marriott Hotels executive, with Mr Gary Wilson, former Walt Disney finance director, and JMB Realty, the Chicago property concern, which owns the British Randsworth Trust.

Mr Michael Mueller, senior hotels analyst at Montgomery

Securities, a San Francisco stockbroker, said: "I believe they are still up for sale. It would take 15 years for earnings to justify a share price at twice the current levels and they are continually talking about maximizing shareholder value."

"The only way they are going to achieve that in the short term is through a takeover. It may not come this year, but it will come within the next two," he added.

Hilton profits last year were hit by refurbishing some hotels and being bad Baccarat players, a game which attracts high rollers, to its Las Vegas casino, who are prepared to drop between \$100,000 and \$200,000 a game.

Last year the gamblers won. Net income from its four casinos in the first quarter, was the highest in its history. Gaming profits pushed group income up 93 per cent in the first quarter to \$25.1 million.

## East Germany may offer deal

By Colin Narborough, Economics Correspondent

A CLOSE adviser to Herr Lothar de Maizière, East Germany's first freely elected Prime Minister, has signalled that East Berlin is ready to compromise on a key aspect of monetary union with West Germany.

The Bundesbank, the West German central bank, demanded that ostmarks should be converted to Deutschmarks at the rate of two-for-one, except for a limited amount of savings converted at one-for-one. This provoked protest

from key members of the Bonn cabinet and politicians in East Berlin, who saw two-for-one as going back on pledges by West Germany.

But Herr Elmar Pieroth, a West Berlin politician who is Herr de Maizière's economic adviser, has said that "several different exchange rates" could operate when the Deutschmark replaces the ostmark.

He said two-for-one would be the "market rate," but that it should be one-for-one for

salaries and social security payments.

Cutting the East German salaries in half was not possible because the difference between East and West Germany would be too big. He endorsed Bonn's view that monetary union must be implemented on July 1.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl is pressing for an agreement with East Germany by May.

His ministers will seek to resolve outstanding issues immediately after Easter.

## Mood of confidence follows election in Greece

## Meteoric week for Athens exchange

By Philip Pangalos

THE Athens Stock Exchange reflected the hope of investors for a stable government after months of indecision with meteoric rises this week.

The General Index jumped by 14.74 per cent on Monday to a record high of 771.04 in heavy trading, after the conservative New Democracy Party's victory in Sunday's elections. This was followed by a 6.6 per cent increase on Tuesday, before a drop of 3.5 per cent on Wednesday after profit-taking, and a climb of 1.58 per cent on Thursday to a close of 807.22 ahead of the Easter weekend. Traders said advances had been across the board, although banking was the main beneficiary.

Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, Greece's new Prime Minister, who was sworn in on Wednesday, has said that his conservative government will make sweeping changes aimed at putting the devastated economy back on its feet.

Market analysts said that there had been "an explosion of prices and great interest from the start." One trader said New Democracy's victory signalled an entirely new era for the market. Traders

said the market was anticipating a liberalization of the economy, and that state-run problem companies would be sold to the private sector.

Monday's volume was estimated at about Dr3 billion (£11 million), with some sources putting the figure nearer Dr3.6 billion, with similar volumes recorded on Tuesday and Wednesday. Over the past year anything over 1 billion was considered a big day. The market is expected to keep rising as economic reforms are introduced.

The government has said it plans to improve the economy by cutting state spending, streamlining the public sector, attracting foreign investment and encouraging private investment.

The European Commission recently gave warning that economic disaster loomed unless an austerity programme was put into effect.

Problems include a huge public deficit, a booming black economy and an annual inflation rate of about 17 per cent, the highest in the European Community.

The budget deficit in 1989 reached \$12.5 billion, or 22 per cent of the gross

domestic product. The key jobs of managing recovery of the economy are held by Mr George Souflias, who has been behind the party's economic programme and will be in charge of the national economy, and by Mr Ioannis Paliokrasas, the Finance Minister, who has had long experience in economic affairs.

Mr Mitsotakis is known as a keen supporter of a free market economy and is expected to take a tough line on the country's deficit. However, he faces the difficulty of a slim one-seat majority, despite the fact that the percentage of votes held by his party is the highest of any governing party in Europe.

His decision to throw his support behind Mr Constantine Karamanlis — the former Prime Minister and President who in 1974 oversaw the restoration of democracy after seven years of military dictatorship, and who agreed to come out of retirement and serve as Greek President — shows he is ready to take every step to restore the image of the country and ensure the best possible prospects for the economy.

## Faith, hope, but not an abundance of charity



KENNETH FLEET

THE saying of the week is down to Sir Trevor Holdsworth, president of the Confederation of British Industry. "Either the country slides back to where it was in the 1970s, or they take some action."

It is "they" — the Government — which is responsible for recession. The same "they" that restored management's freedom to manage through abolishing foreign exchange, price and credit controls and curbing the worst excesses of trade union power.

The same "they" that gave management the financial incentive to manage with share options, profit-related bonuses, and lower taxes. The same "they" that created the longest sustained economic boom in living memory and thus the opportunity to plan for and sell into an expanding market.

You might think that industry would feel some responsibility for keeping the show on the road. Not a bit. John Banham, director-general of the same Confederation of British Industry, wailed that British industry, well as it had done, was investing 40 per cent less than West German industry and 30 per cent less than French industry. Personally I blame the Germans and the French for taking the long view of Europe and investing too much.

The CBI attracts small congregations. Texts such as "Self-help is for the ungodly" and "It is my brother's fault not mine own" make tedious sermons. Robin Leigh-Pemberton belongs to another and wiser ministry, though one equally prone to error.

When the Governor of the Bank of England spoke in Durham to the text "Put not all thy faith in the judgement of scribes" he did have the grace to share responsibility for what has gone wrong with the UK economy with former City editor and ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson. At the same time he called into question parts of the foundation on which the British "economic miracle" of the 1980s was built.

Inferior statistics, poor economic intelligence, runaway consumer spending (spurred by unrestricted credit, huge rises in house prices, a weak pound) and the cardinal sin — cutting interest rates in the first half of 1988, with inflation at 8.1 per cent in March the Governor, like Sir Trevor, might easily have said that they (or in his case "we") had to take some action or it will be back to the 1970s.

It is rare for the Governor, even when he has thought to don his sack cloth and ashes before opening his mouth, to make outspoken criticisms of official policy. Talk of an "independent" central bank is in the air and he may have decided to raise the temperature of the debate. His timing was right in that context, though I detect

little enthusiasm in Downing Street for a British Bundesbank. Nevertheless it is surprising to see him putting the boot in, however elegantly, when the Government is writhing on the floor, struck by inflation and beaten about the head by its own supporters.

My own view, which I have expressed before in this column, is that Mr Leigh-Pemberton will not complete his second five-year term. If I am wrong, and for once I would be happy to be wrong — against the odds he has made a very good fist of the job — and the Conservatives lose the general election, he would have the opportunity of serving a Labour government. As the honourable man he is, he believes he could do that as well as he has served Mrs Thatcher. He would not want the chance at her electoral expense, but if it were to happen he would have a kind of solace in demonstrating the sense of duty that is an integral part of his character.

Below the Governor's level, one section of the City is getting into a state of mental preparedness for a Labour government.

The Economist's poll of economists shows that of 77 respondents 51 per cent believe that Labour would be good for the economy, 12 per cent think it would make no difference and 37 per cent know it would be bad. Professors of economics who naturally lean toward the left were more enthusiastic ("good" 55 per cent, "no difference" 36 per cent) than the City scribblers. But they too are not so far behind ("good" 39 per cent, "no difference" 18 per cent). A small majority of City economists (55 per cent) would prefer John Smith in Number 11 Downing Street to John Major.

If he won't change parties John Smith would obviously do Labour a tremendous favour if he replaced Neil Kinnock as Labour leader.

Leaving aside the sagacious and personable Smith, it is as well we are not governed by economists. City economists are either too young to have experienced anything worse than Mrs Thatcher, or they are bored with economic policy played on a one-tune instrument (interest rates); or they are both young and bored. Wouldn't it be fun to see what happens if the pendulum of power moved back toward organized labour, financial incentives were taken out of the system, public spending went up dramatically and the pound were

"competitive"? No it would not. The City market men — the doers as distinct from the thinkers — are older and more practical. They recall that the City has made more money under Labour governments than under Conservatives.

Gilt-edged dealers can hardly wait for the taps of government funding to be opened, while equity market-makers can guarantee they will make a useful turn from renationalization of "selected" privatized industries.

The City has not yet decided that the Government will fall. The opinion polls make Tory backbenchers tremble, the local elections next month will be a Tory disaster, the rise in the retail price index for April will easily exceed 9 per cent and might in May hit 10. All this is understood and built into a price structure buffeted by external knocks, notably the weakness of the Japanese stock market.

Yet the FT-SE index has not collapsed because if John Major is remotely right in his medium-term inflation forecasts and the economy is no worse than 1 per cent above the horizontal leading UK stocks are not expensive. Bearing in mind that about a half of all British company profits now come from overseas, in real terms they are rated below what they were in the trough of 1980.

Domestic politics inevitably will have an increasing influence on share prices. At its simplest the Government has three problems to resolve: 1. Sheer boredom with it, the young who have lived only under Thatcherism, the feeling that it is "time for a change." 2. High interest rates, particularly high mortgage rates which are causing distress and forcing up the retail price index. 3. The Community Charge (poll tax).

There is not much the Tories can do about 1 and they need luck as much as good judgement for 2 to come right in the time available to them. With the poll tax they have various options, in addition to getting across to the chattering classes and likely beneficiaries the message that big rebates are available.

Taking education or fire services or the police out of local authority budgets and paying for them centrally is one — expensive, open to accusations of centralism, but at least paid for by those able to pay. Making the Community Charge tax-deductible is another. This would relieve the burden on youngish, fairly well paid, taxpayers with a mortgage. A Tory target area.

As a student of these matters said to me yesterday, "We are down to the blue pig vote. Things can only get better. And there are still two years to go."

The stock market has got that message.

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# Green audits could win over the environmental consumer

By Melinda Wittstock

ENVIRONMENTAL audits could soon become *de rigueur* among British companies aiming to gain, or particularly, not to lose, market share in the face of growing consumer pressure for a cleaner environment and greener products.

After last year's ground-breaking move by Caird, the waste management group, to include an independent "environmental audit" in its annual report, green lobbyists, professors, accountants, consultants, Government officials and even industrialists have seized on green auditing as an important way for companies to clean up their acts.

Regular internal, but independent, assessments of a company's compliance with existing environmental regulation, combined with the active monitoring of progress towards more environmentally-friendly products and procedures, would also allow companies to help set the green agenda rather than merely reacting to inevitable Government legislation.

"If industry doesn't start to self-regulate itself, Government will then set rules which will be less flexible and less practical," said Mr Brian Jenkins, head of auditing at Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountants, which is moving into environmental auditing.

Environmental demands are here to stay: businesses should make the most of them by pursuing real improvements rather than mere compliance with the rules," he said.

Mr Jenkins said the envi-

ronmental audit, a US import, is an independent and detailed assessment of a company's environmental performance, reviewing such issues as emissions from sites, energy conservation, environmental information systems and management's record in fulfilling company goals.

Environmental audits - invented merely to assess compliance with government regulations after the US Environmental Protection Agency discovered that the causes of non-compliance were due to management rather than technical failure - should go much further, Mr Jenkins said.

Companies could set goals, for example, relating to the reduction of sulphur emissions, the design of more environmentally-friendly products or the creation of a more cost-effective system of recycling paper. Progress would then be monitored by the auditor.

The auditor could also help companies set out an environmental policy, draw up plans for its implementation, set targets and monitor the result.

Companies could also use the procedure to review the life-cycle of its products - from the sourcing of raw materials to the disposal of waste - assessing the environmental impact to effect new product policies.

But Mr Jenkins emphasized that any self-regulatory environmental auditing scheme must be carried out independently to add reliability and credibility to the process.

Although he said companies



Publicity crucial: Tom Burke of the Green Alliance

need not make the results of an environmental audit public, showing initiative to both consumers and shareholders through publicizing changes made and targets met, could only help.

But Mr Tom Burke, director of the Green Alliance, said it

was crucial that the results of such audits be made public.

Caird, which publicized the results of its green audit, found that several of its recently-acquired sites needed to be improved to meet new, tougher regulations.

Mott MacDonald, the en-

gineering and environmental consultant which conducted the audit, found that several sites had been "inherited with significant problems, which take time to solve; leachate emissions at certain of the landfill sites afford good examples of this."

The consultant urged Caird to document its environmental policy, distribute it to all the staff and consider hiring roving troubleshooters to ensure that all sites were brought up to consistent operational standards. Caird was told it should also introduce a standard record-keeping system and institute its own monitoring policy.

"The bottom line is improving environmental performance. I won't be convinced that is happening until companies publish numerical environmental performance targets and report on their year-to-year progress in meeting those targets," said Mr Burke.

But the Mott MacDonald report noted sadly that most of its recommendations were not yet required by the statutory authorities.

Mr Jenkins said he thought it highly likely that the environmental audit would be mentioned in the White Paper on the environment due soon.

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment said the Government would welcome company self-regulation through the environmental audit, but added that there was still room for Government to "provide a helping hand" through continued regulation.

## Shares dip in Tokyo after light selling

By Our City Staff

SHARE prices ended broadly weaker in Tokyo after light index-linked selling, but they were well above the lows seen during the afternoon.

Low volume exaggerated the selling. The Nikkei index dropped by 409.28 points, or 1.38 per cent, to 29,213.92 - more than eliminating Thursday's gain of 182.92.

Turnover was only 320 million shares compared with 430 million on Thursday.

With other main stock markets closed, Tokyo's movement made little impression elsewhere.

Brokers reported a lack of buyers rather than a flurry of sellers.

Falls eclipsed rises by about five to two with 672 lower, 263 higher and 168 unchanged. Buying was tentative and unbalanced, with rises mainly confined to some electrical and other scattered stocks.

The Nikkei, which ranged below Thursday's close all day, breached the 29,000 mark to stand 670 points lower in the late afternoon, before recovering.

Brokers saw little hope that the market would climb out of its narrow trading range in the next few weeks, but many believe that shares reached their bottom for the short-term when the Nikkei dipped to 27,251 last week.

The dollar was traded at about ¥158.40 in the late afternoon, up from its opening of ¥158.13, but brokers believe the stock market will remain unexcited - provided it stays below ¥160.

## INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Monthly rate	Compounded at 12% rate		Effective Annual Rate	Minimum Deposit	Contract
	nominal	25%	40%			
<b>BANKS</b>						
Ordinary Dep A/c	6.00	5.10	4.08	nominal	7 day	
Typical						
<b>Fixed Term Deposits:</b>						
Deposits	10.87	10.87	9.75	25,000-50,000	1 year	01-05-1991
Deposits	11.81	11.81	10.70	50,000-100,000	1 year	01-05-1991
Deposits	10.38	10.38	9.30	2,500-40,000	1 year	Local Street
Lloyds	11.31	11.31	9.94	10,000-40,000	6 mths	Local Street
Deposits	10.45	10.45	9.34	10,000-40,000	6 mths	Local Street
Midland	11.81	11.81	10.70	10,000-40,000	1 year	01-05-1991
Deposits	10.82	10.82	9.67	10,000-40,000	1 year	01-05-1991
Deposits	10.82	10.82	9.67	10,000-40,000	1 year	01-05-1991
MidWest	10.50	10.50	9.40	10,000-40,000	1 year	01-05-1991



STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Firm close before holiday

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 9. Dealings end April 27. Contango day April 30. Settlement day May 8.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

The prices in this section reflect Thursday's trading

Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

## BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Fund	100.00	0.00	10.00

## BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Company	Price	Change	P/E
Bank of England	100.00	0.00	10.00
Bank of England	100.00	0.00	10.00
Bank of England	100.00	0.00	10.00
Bank of England	100.00	0.00	10.00
Bank of England	100.00	0.00	10.00

## BREWERIES

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Breweries	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Breweries	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Breweries	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Breweries	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Breweries	100.00	0.00	10.00

## BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Building	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Building	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Building	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Building	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Building	100.00	0.00	10.00

## CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Chemicals	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Chemicals	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Chemicals	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Chemicals	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Chemicals	100.00	0.00	10.00

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Chemicals	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Chemicals	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Chemicals	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Chemicals	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Chemicals	100.00	0.00	10.00

## DRAPERY, STORES

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Drapery	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Drapery	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Drapery	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Drapery	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Drapery	100.00	0.00	10.00

## ELECTRICALS

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Electricals	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Electricals	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Electricals	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Electricals	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Electricals	100.00	0.00	10.00

## FINANCE, LAND

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Finance	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Finance	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Finance	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Finance	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Finance	100.00	0.00	10.00

## FOODS

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Foods	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Foods	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Foods	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Foods	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Foods	100.00	0.00	10.00

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Foods	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Foods	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Foods	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Foods	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Foods	100.00	0.00	10.00

## HOTELS, CATERING

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Hotels	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Hotels	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Hotels	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Hotels	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Hotels	100.00	0.00	10.00

## INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Industrials	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Industrials	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Industrials	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Industrials	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Industrials	100.00	0.00	10.00

## M-K

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British M-K	100.00	0.00	10.00
British M-K	100.00	0.00	10.00
British M-K	100.00	0.00	10.00
British M-K	100.00	0.00	10.00
British M-K	100.00	0.00	10.00

## L-R

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British L-R	100.00	0.00	10.00
British L-R	100.00	0.00	10.00
British L-R	100.00	0.00	10.00
British L-R	100.00	0.00	10.00
British L-R	100.00	0.00	10.00

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British L-R	100.00	0.00	10.00
British L-R	100.00	0.00	10.00
British L-R	100.00	0.00	10.00
British L-R	100.00	0.00	10.00
British L-R	100.00	0.00	10.00

## S-Z

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British S-Z	100.00	0.00	10.00
British S-Z	100.00	0.00	10.00
British S-Z	100.00	0.00	10.00
British S-Z	100.00	0.00	10.00
British S-Z	100.00	0.00	10.00

## INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Insurance	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Insurance	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Insurance	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Insurance	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Insurance	100.00	0.00	10.00

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Investment	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Investment	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Investment	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Investment	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Investment	100.00	0.00	10.00

## LEISURE

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Leisure	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Leisure	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Leisure	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Leisure	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Leisure	100.00	0.00	10.00

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Leisure	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Leisure	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Leisure	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Leisure	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Leisure	100.00	0.00	10.00

## MINING

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Mining	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Mining	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Mining	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Mining	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Mining	100.00	0.00	10.00

## MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Motors	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Motors	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Motors	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Motors	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Motors	100.00	0.00	10.00

## NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Newspapers	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Newspapers	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Newspapers	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Newspapers	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Newspapers	100.00	0.00	10.00

## OVERSEAS TRADERS

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Overseas	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Overseas	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Overseas	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Overseas	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Overseas	100.00	0.00	10.00

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Overseas	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Overseas	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Overseas	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Overseas	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Overseas	100.00	0.00	10.00

## PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Paper	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Paper	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Paper	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Paper	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Paper	100.00	0.00	10.00

## PROPERTY

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Property	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Property	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Property	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Property	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Property	100.00	0.00	10.00

## SHOES, LEATHER

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Shoes	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Shoes	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Shoes	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Shoes	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Shoes	100.00	0.00	10.00

## TEXTILES

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Textiles	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Textiles	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Textiles	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Textiles	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Textiles	100.00	0.00	10.00

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Textiles	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Textiles	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Textiles	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Textiles	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Textiles	100.00	0.00	10.00

## TOBACCO

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Tobacco	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Tobacco	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Tobacco	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Tobacco	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Tobacco	100.00	0.00	10.00

## TRANSPORT

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Transport	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Transport	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Transport	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Transport	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Transport	100.00	0.00	10.00

## WATER

Company	Price	Change	P/E
British Water	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Water	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Water	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Water	100.00	0.00	10.00
British Water	100.00	0.00	10.00

Ex dividend a Ex at b Forecast dividend c Interim payment passed d Price at suspension of dividend and yield exclude a special payment e Pre-merger figures f Forecast earnings g Ex other h Ex rights i Ex comp or share split j Tax-free . . . No significant data.



SATURDAY APRIL 14 1990

## FAMILY MONEY

Edited by Lindsay Cook

## INSIDE

## Business trap

As many as 15,500 investors could be trapped in Business Expansion Schemes unable to take their money out after completing the five years of investment required for the tax breaks. Page 24

## Soliciting investments

Earning £20,000 a year for three-and-a-half hours' work selling investments is good business for solicitors. Some 10 per cent of solicitors have signed up for a joint venture between the Law Society and a financial firm. Page 25

## Longer interest

The discounts on investment trusts are making them strong contenders in the income stakes, well able to compete with banks and building societies. Page 25

## State premiums

Pensioners attracted back to work by new job opportunities and the abolition of the earnings rule could do better by investing their state pension in a personal pension plan rather than relying on the state's top-up. Page 26

## Steaming ahead

Schoolboys of the 1930s and 1940s who collected anything connected with steam trains — including even the tickets — are now benefiting from a railway revival. High prices are being paid for items which evoke pleasant, if sooty, memories. Page 26



Page 27

## Insurance watchdog backs more consumers

By Barbara Ellis

IN 10 days, Dr Julian Farrand, the insurance ombudsman, will announce a near doubling in the percentage of decisions in favour of policyholders.

His report will show that almost four out of 10 cases have been settled in favour of complainants instead of two out of 10. The increase threatens to bring him into conflict with the insurance companies who voluntarily fund the ombudsman scheme.

Unlike his building society or banking equivalents, the insurance ombudsman clears his report with a council consisting mainly of consumer representatives and a board

made up of insurance companies.

For the past eight years, insurance companies have been used to the steady ratio of two out of 10 decisions in favour of consumers delivered by Mr James Haswell, the former ombudsman.

But Dr Farrand's first report will give closer to four out of 10 decisions to consumers, which has caused some unease among insurance companies, according to Mr Tim Crawley-Boevey, a council member.

"I suppose nobody enjoys having their decisions overturned," he said.

However, Mr John Savage of the Prudential, who is deputy chairman of the board, attributed the shift in

favour of consumers partly to changes in the law, citing a recent Court of Appeal decision against the Prudential involving belongings left locked in a car. "They decided that the standard of reasonable care required was substantially less than anyone in the industry had thought," he said. "Maybe we're a bit unhappy with the law."

Another likely point of contention is the ombudsman's declared view that companies should take responsibility for the actions of independent intermediaries as well as employees.

Shortly after his appointment last year, Dr Farrand said publicly that he thought companies should take

responsibility for the independent intermediaries selling their products as well as for employees, despite the fact that in law the independents are considered to be the agents of the people buying policies.

However, this view does not come across in Dr Farrand's report, according to the chairman of the ombudsman's board, Mr Tom Roberts, of General Accident.

"I certainly would not be happy with that, because it is seeking a change in the law as it is," he said. However, Mr Roberts denied that there had been any pressure on Dr Farrand to alter his view.

Dr Farrand also appears to be ruffling feathers by suggesting that a

plain English version of his terms of reference be published, since the unpublished terms are at some variance with the summary currently handed out to the public and used to fend off a number of complaints.

But Mr Roberts said: "You have to be careful to appreciate that if a plain English version were published the final decision would have to rest with the formal versions."

Dr Farrand refused to comment on his report to be published on April 24.

However, he confirmed that he would be showing different approaches from those of his predecessor, with more decisions in favour of consumers.



Farrand: different track

## Banking on fun at the bank



Matters in hand: playtime at HFC's Chelmsford branch as the manager looks on

CHILDREN'S play areas have been set up in all the 168 branches of the HFC Bank — after the children of customers were asked what toys they would like to play with (Lindsay Cook writes).

The bank linked up with the Early Learning Centre to kit out the areas with play tables, chairs, colouring books, toy telephones, puzzles and toy farmyard animals.

To celebrate provision of the facilities, the bank, which opens for its full range of services all day on Saturdays, is today offering free Easter

eggs to the first 150 children of customers in each branch.

"Many of our customers are families with small children, who can become easily bored while their mum or dad talks to us. So we developed the idea of play areas as a useful distraction for kids while parents arrange their finances in peace," Mr Andrew Marchington, HFC's marketing director, said.

But the bank, which was founded in Britain, in 1973, first as HFC Trust, and achieved full bank status in 1988, does not intend its

400,000 customers to use the play areas as crèches. "They are only for use while the parents or other adults are in the bank conducting business," a spokesman said.

The branches are in many towns or cities with a population of 100,000 or more.

The bank — a member of the Household International Group — offers a current account which pays 6 per cent interest on credit balances.

Its Savings Account Plus pays interest on a sliding scale from 6 per cent to 10.5 per cent.

## OFT signals an open policy on brokers revealing commissions

By Lindsay Cook

INVESTORS and homebuyers could be told in cash terms exactly what a broker earns for selling an insurance policy, following new recommendations announced this week by the Office of Fair Trading.

The OFT, in a submission to the Department of Trade and Industry, called for full disclosure of insurance commissions to investors before they agree to take out a policy.

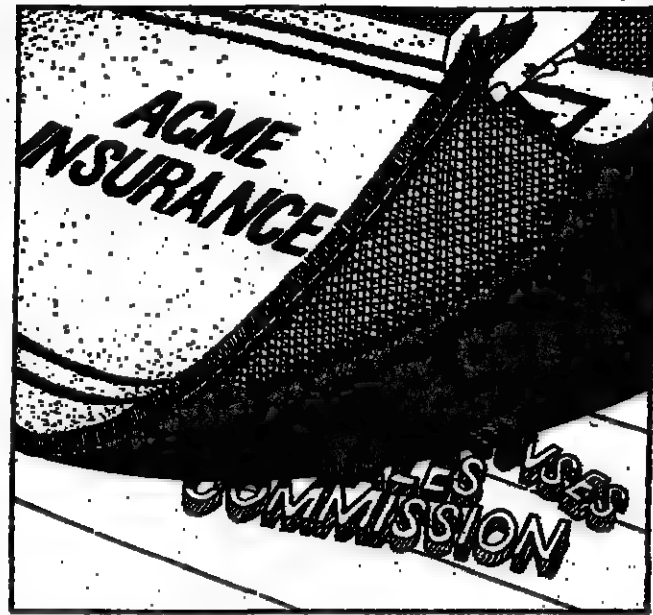
But insurance companies, their tied agents and their direct sales force may still be allowed to hide the costs of setting up a policy.

On a £60,000 endowment mortgage taken out by a 30-year-old non-smoker, the broker could earn £1,200 in commission. On a £100,000 endowment taken out by a 40-year-old the commission might be £2,200. On a £150,000 endowment policy for a 45-year-old the commission might reach £3,700.

At present policyholders who buy through an independent adviser are informed in writing, along with the cancellation agreement, what percentage of each year's premiums are paid in commission. For an endowment policy this might be 33.3 per cent in year one; 33 per cent in years two and three; 8 per cent in year four and then 2.5 per cent.

Those who buy from tied agents or the employees of insurance companies will be told from July what effect the insurance company costs and charges will have on the investment yield, but will get no clear idea of the cost of setting up the policy.

The Securities and Invest-



ments Board, which introduced the current system of partial disclosure, cautiously welcomed the OFT recommendations. Mr David Walker, the chairman, said he was in favour of "cash disclosure at the point of sale" but added it was debatable how fast this might be achieved.

The current regime, which only came into operation last May, has pushed up commissions by about a third.

It also persuaded a large number of independent financial advisers to become tied agents of insurance companies in order to earn even higher rates of commission and avoid telling clients anything about the commission they receive.

The investment performance of a Standard Life or Legal & General policy will be

exactly the same, whether it is sold by an independent broker or a tied agent, who is only allowed to sell the products of one company. The tied agent is also likely to have earned more commission. Some companies agreed to pay 60 per cent more to tied agents than they did under the maximum commission agreement which preceded the present system.

All the investors pay jointly for the higher commissions paid to tied agents unless genuine economies of scale are achieved.

But only independent brokers have to reveal in any form at all what they receive for selling a policy.

The OFT has focused on commission, which is effectively paid for by the policyholders.

Independents argue that the

benefits of investing in the best performing policies far outweigh the commission they earn and that only independent advisers can offer products from the whole of the market.

For example someone who invested £30 a month in a Standard Life endowment for 25 years would now have £64,441. While an investor with a Sun Life endowment would have exactly £27,000 less.

Sir Gordon Bowie, Director General of the OFT, argued that full disclosure will increase competition and force insurance companies to cut commission rates to persuade investors to opt for them.

The independent advisers fear that it will force more of them into the arms of insurance companies and tied agents.

They argue that even if a regime is introduced, which would require insurance companies to reveal how much it costs them to set up a policy there will still be room for companies to disguise these figures.

At National Westminster Insurance Services Mr Stephen Wells, the deputy managing director, said: "We do regard the current regime as fair and reasonable. Consumers do have an opportunity to see what percentage of the premiums we are earning."

As the largest independent financial adviser we would be concerned by any change which would impact on our ability to offer independent advice.

"The proposals would tilt the level playing-field away from us in favour of tied agents and direct sales forces."

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\*Source: Morningstar 1980 to 1989 offer to hold with net income reinvested. Over 5 years to 1989 the trust would have returned 25% 4%, other to 1989. Fidelity Securities Limited, Member of IFA.

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## FAMILY MONEY

## Offshore rule loophole worries IoM regulators

Tony Hetherington  
finds an investment  
company that is not  
all it seems to be

A YIELD of 25 per cent on any investment is remarkable going, but when the investment company is, apparently, run by three Manx office workers in their spare time, alarm bells begin to ring.

Operating from an address in Spain, Baskam Investment Management Ltd is holding out the prospect of mouth-watering returns on a number of schemes, including one investing in art.

But trying to pin down the directors of Baskam as to exactly how they can manage to offer a product which must turn the High Street banks green with envy, was not easy. Baskam Investment Management Limited is a Manx company, registered at 19 Peel Road, Douglas. It has, though, no real presence there, for this is the address of Aston Corporate Management Ltd, a company formation firm which, for a fee, will register its own staff as the shareholders and directors of a business, thus concealing the true identities of the owners and managers.

The owners of Baskam — according to declarations filed by Aston with the Manx government — are Miss Gillian Nora Cairne and Mrs Susan Christine Cabbon. Both are also directors of the company, together with Miss Sharon Dunn, a secretary at Aston Corporate Management.



Douglas on the Isle of Man: not all firms registered there operate on the island

ment, where all three work. Miss Cairne and Miss Dunn were both "unavailable" for comment this week. However, Mrs Cabbon agreed that she is a director of, and shareholder in, Baskam Investment Management. She seemed unaware, though, of the investments it is offering.

Declining the offer of a free mention in *The Times* for her 25 per cent investment scheme, Mrs Cabbon insisted that she would not reveal details on the telephone. When it was pointed out that Mrs Cabbon is the company, or half of it anyway, she hung up.

The real explanation was left to the manager of Aston's London office, a Mr Ali, who agreed the three ladies might not be the true power behind Baskam. "Aston Corporate Management provides nominee services as part of its company formation activ-

ities," he said. Neither Aston nor Baskam has committed any offence, but Manx officials are anxious to maintain the higher standards of investor protection which nowadays operate on the island. The island's Financial Supervision Commission is taking seriously the potential harm which can be done by companies which register there but then operate offshore, beyond their reach.

Investors often have the false impression that they are dealing with a company which is regulated and authorized by the Isle of Man authorities, whereas as long as the company conducts its business off the island, it is completely unsupervised. The same rule — or lack of it — applies to investment companies registered on the British mainland carrying on business abroad.

On the Isle of Man, however, moves are afoot to plug this legal gap. Section 7 of the island's Banking Act is being extended to make it compulsory for any Manx investment company to obtain a licence from the Financial Supervision Commission, even if all its business is conducted off the island.

This will put the commission in a stronger position than the UK mainland authorities, such as the Department of Trade and Industry and the Securities and Investments Board.

At present, they have no authority over British companies which operate overseas, soliciting funds from foreigners who believe they are investing in a properly regulated UK business because it is registered in Britain. It is not unusual for them to discover, too late, that their belief is misplaced.

## Life premiums fail to mirror optimistic outlook over Aids

By Barbara Ellis

AIDS scared insurance companies more than almost any other section of the population. In the summer of 1988, gloomy forecasts extrapolating experience in the United States led to 40 per cent and 50 per cent increases in premiums on term assurance, the cheapest form of life cover.

Since then, Aids claims have consistently undershot company forecasts and scenarios have become far more optimistic about the outlook.

But there has been no matching rush to reduce premiums on term assurance. General Accident, which wrote about £1 billion worth of term assurance policies last year, has just increased premiums by between 5 per cent and 10 per cent at what is considered the higher-risk, younger-end of the market.

Meanwhile, in an effort to drum up business from intermediaries starved of endowment business in the flat housing market, GA has cut rates for older policyholders

with very large sums assured. Its term assurance premium for a 25-year-old man insuring his life for £25,000 is to rise from £6.60 to £7.16 monthly.

However, the monthly premium for a non-smoking man of 44 insured for £30,000 over 20 years will drop from £52.32 to £48.90. A non-smoking man of 49 insured for £500,000 over five years will pay £163.70 a month instead of £179.20. A non-smoking woman of 54 will pay £36.66 per month instead of £37.20 on a sum assured of £90,000.

"It is not entirely an Aids situation," said Mr Peter Hales, sales manager of GA Life, conceding that most of the bigger premium reductions were to be made for the over 40s, who were considered a lower-risk group.

"It is as much a case of us saying it costs more to write small policies, although the Aids situation is helping us to take a more positive view," he said.

At Zurich Life, which trig-

gered the 1988 round of premium increases, Mr Peter Edwards the marketing manager, said the company was not planning to make any cuts in term assurance rates, claiming that it was already extremely competitive for older age groups.

Zurich's premium for a non-smoking man of 49 with a five-year £500,000 policy is currently £179.10 — 10p below GA's rate prior to its reductions.

Mr Edwards pointed out that unlike General Accident, Zurich sets reviewable premiums, so that existing policyholders can gain the benefit of any reduction in future.

At the end of last year, Mr Graham Allan, Zurich's actuary, expressed cautious optimism that the future developments of Aids would turn out to be better than expected. He expected current favourable trends to continue and "in due course" to be reflected in rates.

"For existing policyholders,

the likelihood of reductions is greater than the chance of increases," he said.

Mr John Garner, of Norwich Union, also said his company had no plans to reduce term assurance rates. Since becoming aware of Aids as a cause of death, Norwich Union had paid out 36 claims where the disease was identified as the cause. This figure had been exactly in line with the company's market share.

Mr Tony Baker, of the Association of British Insurers, said there was some noticeable softening in rates for term assurance, but said that most companies had made moves to exclude Aids-related claims on non-life policies.

Mr Robin Michaelson, of the Institute of Actuaries' working party on Aids, said that the disease was no longer seen as quite the immediate problem it had once seemed, because the number of claims coming through was lower than originally expected.

## BRIEFINGS

GA Life has launched a cash unit trust that will yield up to 14.9 per cent before tax. The GA Cash Trust pays net income once a quarter, and allows non-taxpayers to claim tax back. There is an initial charge of 1.5 per cent and an annual management charge of 0.5 per cent. Most cash trusts do not have an initial charge. The minimum investment is £1,000, and money can be withdrawn without notice.

Regency and West of England Building Society has relaunched its Fixed Interest Bond, which pays 15.5 per cent before tax, guaranteed for a year. Interest will be paid after April 6, 1991, allowing non-taxpayers to draw gross proceeds or to claim tax back. The net rate for taxpayers is 11.62 per cent. Between £500 and £20,000 can be invested.

Savers with at least £50,000 to invest can use time deposits to gain gross interest without opening an account offshore. National & Provincial has started a dealing desk for customers who want to learn more on the subject. The society also has an offshore account paying interest free of tax on £2,000 or more. A Gross Interest Bond is available to non-taxpayers with at least £20,000 to invest.

Robert White & Co, the investment trust specialist, is to halve the initial charge on its trust management service to 2.5 per cent from the end of the month. The annual management charge remains 1 per cent. The firm tailors portfolios with income or capital growth in mind for investors with at least £40,000 to spare. Unit trusts may be included.

Coutts & Co has raised its cheque guarantee limits and introduced a credit card for customers. Two new AccountCards, guaranteeing cheques of up to £100 or of up to £250, are linked to the Switch network. The new Classic Visa card includes a

£3,000 credit limit, free travel accident insurance, Air Miles and a cheque guarantee limit of £100. An annual charge of £15 will be waived in the first year. The interest rate is 22.3 per cent APR.

Pensioners are worse off now than 10 years ago, when pensions ceased to be linked to rises in average earnings, but claiming all the benefits to which they are entitled is one way to beat the problem, according to Age Concern, which has published a new edition of *Your Rights for Pensioners*. It includes a section on the poll tax. The guide is available from bookshops or from Age Concern at £1.95 including post & packing.

Employers will be able to pay more to staff who have to relocate for work reasons, following an Inland Revenue review. They will now be able to contribute up to £24,150 free of tax to the extra housing costs of an employee moved to a more expensive housing area. The amount was limited to £22,890. The new limit dates from April 6.

Bank cards may soon guarantee £100 cheques as a matter of course, after the decision by Lloyds Bank to raise the limit on its bank payment card. The new £100 limit will be available to all customers, including students, and is not subject to salary limitations. New cards will be issued to existing customers as their cards come up for renewal. The card is the only major debit card to restrict customer liability to £50 in the event of loss or theft.

TSB Bank has created a home improvement loan package that throws in more than just extra cash. The loan, of £2,500 or more, is offered with a home security kit of a smoke alarm, a fire extinguisher and a security sensor for an outside light. Loans are available from between one and five years, at an interest rate of 12.9 per cent credit APR.

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In the recent County NatWest the other twelve leading trusts over Wood Mackenzie survey, The Foreign ten years, five years and one year. and Colonial Investment Trust beat A case of older being wiser, perhaps.

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## FAMILY MONEY

### National Trust takes the credit



A CREDIT card and savings account which will benefit the National Trust have been introduced by Midland Bank (writes Lindsay Cook).

Sir Kit McMahon, the Midland chairman, and Dame Jennifer Jenkins, chairman of the National Trust, are pictured above at the launch this week.

Midland Access customers can also benefit financially by transferring to the National Trust card because its annual interest rate is 3 per cent lower at 26.8 per cent. The charity, which preserves places of historic interest and national beauty,

will receive £5 from the bank the first time the Visa card is used and 5p for each subsequent purchase.

The National Trust Premier Savings Account pays 11 per cent and the bank will contribute 0.1 per cent of the annual average credit balance on each account to the Trust. With a minimum investment of £5,000 the smallest donation should be above £5. On sums over £10,000 instant withdrawals can be made with no penalty. On smaller sums 30 days notice is required.

The Trust's 1.8 million members will

be invited directly to apply. But applicants do not have to be existing customers of Midland or members of the National Trust to benefit the charity. The bank is also sponsoring a coastal studies teachers' handbook published by the Trust. This will be used to teach environmental studies, geography and related subjects in the school curriculum.

Midland launched its first affinity card in May last year. The Artscard benefits 50 organizations ranging from the Royal Opera House to the Hull Truck Theatre Company.

### BES exit shocks in store

By Margaret Dibben

MANY BES investors who think they have made a five-year commitment will receive a shock when the investment matures. Although they need to stay put for five years to obtain the tax relief, they might not be able to have their money when the time is up.

Shareholders have no say in what action directors take at the end of the five-year period and they can find themselves completely locked in for an indefinite period.

Mr Anthony Yadaroff, group managing director of Allenbridge Group, a corporate finance house which specializes in small company research, has calculated the size of the problem.

He said: "I reckon there are about 15,500 investors who are stuck in the 1983/84/85 range. There were nearly 500 companies funded in those years, of which 20 have come to the market. There are now



Villiers: planning a code

340 companies in the process of deciding what to do next."

They have several choices for exit routes. Mr Shann Parsons, a director of Poimmon York, the BES sponsor, explained: "You can sell the assets and liquidate the company, sell the company so it is taken over by somebody else for cash or shares, or obtain a quote."

Mr Yadaroff added: "Going for a quote is the

hardest, unless the company is very successful. Of the 340 companies, unless it is a trade sale, I cannot see what exit route there is, leaving shareholders in a difficult position."

If the company has been successful and stays in business, investors may be able to sell their shares. But if the company is only just surviving, no-one will want to buy them although investors will be more anxious to get out once they have received their tax relief.

Mr Yadaroff gave one reason why shareholders might be stuck: "A lot of the directors of companies probably don't want to come out after five years. If you are running a business which is not doing too well but you are getting your director's fees and management charges, you would be quite happy just to carry on."

Few BES companies have so far reached their fifth

anniversary. The first schemes started in tax year 1983/84 and many of them failed long before completing the five years.

Figures just released by Allenbridge Group, show that 36 per cent of BES companies launched in 1983/84 failed, losing investors £15.5 million. The following year just over 20 per cent collapsed with a loss of £11.5 million. Since then there have been fewer failures, although a BES investment is still high-risk.

A trade association for BES companies, which so far has support from 60 corporate members, is just being formed by Mr Tim Villiers, head of operations for BES investment research at Allenbridge Group.

There will be a code of conduct, which subscribers must follow, including a recommendation on exit routes. Mr Villiers said: "The code will be particularly in the interest of investors."

### Inadequate view of 'adequate'

By Paul Naki

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THE Consumers' Association has fiercely criticized the Securities and Investment Board (SIB) for failing to define accurately what the Financial Services Act means by "adequate" investor protection.

The move follows the publication of the board's consultative paper, *Achieving and Judging Adequacy*.

The paper's strongest proposition is that an "adequate" standard of protection must be at least as good as that currently provided.

A workable test of adequacy

is central to investor protection because it is the new criteria by which the SIB is to judge the rulebooks of the self-regulatory organizations (SROs). Previously, it was necessary for these rulebooks to be "equivalent" to the SIB's. This was changed last year by amendments to the Financial Services Act.

The lack of detailed proposals on how the new criteria will be enforced has angered the Consumers' Association.

Miss Jane Vass, director of the association's money group, said: "We were con-

cerned then that there would be nothing solid to replace it (equivalence) and this document does nothing to reassure us - it gives no definition of adequacy as far as I can see."

Consultative Paper 39 proposes that the SROs should be able to waive or modify the SIB's "core" rules in certain circumstances.

This delegation of power, said Miss Vass, could result in inconsistencies between the SROs. Industry lobbies would become more influential and rules essential to investor protection might be dropped.

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## FAMILY MONEY

Helen Pridham on the Cinderella of the securities world

# The discount charm of investment trust yields

WITH banks and building societies paying interest rates of up to 15 per cent or more, it is easy to overlook other forms of income investment, such as investment trusts, which are currently offering yields of less than half that.

But investors seeking long-term income are taking a risk if they adopt this approach, says Mr Robin Angus, investment-trust specialist at County NatWest-Wood Mackenzie.

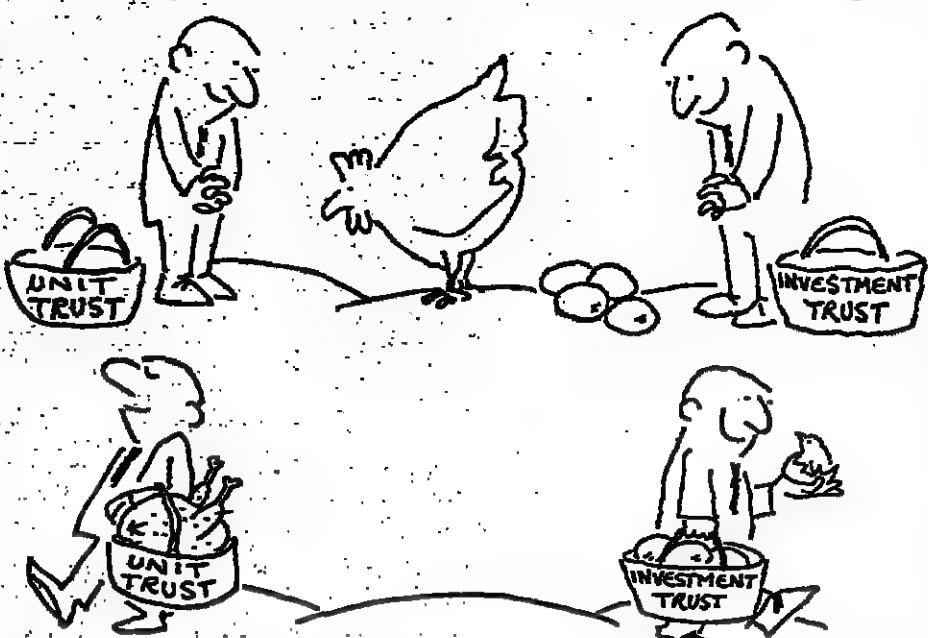
"They are taking a double risk. First with their income, which will inevitably go down over the next couple of years when interest rates drop, and second with their capital which is almost certainly going to be eroded by inflation," he said. He feels there is less risk in investment trusts.

"You can virtually rely on a growing income. Cuts in dividends almost never happen. And your investment will almost certainly be protected against inflation too through capital growth."

Over the past five years, investment trust dividends have consistently risen faster than inflation. Last year dividends on investment trusts rose by 19.8 per cent compared with 17 per cent increase on shares generally.

During 1990, WoodMac forecasts an increase of 10-12 per cent reflecting a slowdown in dividend growth to 7-9 per cent, but still above the Chancellor's predicted inflation rate of 7 per cent.

WoodMac has forecast a rise of 22 per cent this year for Touche Berriman City of London, a British income trust, yielding 6.1 per cent.



British Assets, an international income trust, with a yield of 7.1 per cent, is expected to make 15 per cent.

One of the attractions of investment trusts is that as most trade at a discount you actually pay less than the full cost of the underlying shares. Despite this, you receive dividends on the full value. So if it is at a 15 per cent discount you pay £85 for £100 of dividend-paying shares. But capital growth of your investment will depend on a rise in the investment trust's share price.

Today it is possible to get income from an investment trust totally tax-free by investing via a Personal Equity Plan, though not all managers offer

an income withdrawal facility. Ivory & Sims has just announced that its 1990-91 Peps will provide for income withdrawals that can be paid direct to investors' banks.

Investors can choose between the company's three income trusts, British Assets, Investors Capital and Ivory & Sims Optimum Income, each of which pay income quarterly. It hopes to introduce a monthly income Pep in July.

Ivory & Sims Optimum Income which offers the highest yield of all the trusts, 8.9 per cent, is one of the new generation of split-level investment trusts. Instead of just offering ordinary shares, this type of trust has a number

of different classes of shares which provide different types of returns. They also have a fixed date when the trust will be wound up.

When split-level trusts were first introduced in the 1960s, they had just two classes of shares.

There were income shares which received all the income from the trust but none of the capital growth and capital shares which received all the capital growth but no income. In recent years, however, other types of shares have been introduced.

With Ivory & Sims Optimum Income, for example, the split is into zero-preference shares, they have a

fixed redemption price instead. All the income goes to ordinary shareholders, but growth must be at least 6 per cent a year to ensure they receive a return of capital. If it exceeds this amount they will enjoy a capital gain.

Mr John Szymanski, investment trust analyst at Warburgs, believes split-level trusts are ideal for income investors. "They enable the investor to cherry-pick and to achieve whatever mix of income and capital growth he or she requires."

For a balanced approach, he recommends a combination of General Consolidated Income shares which yield 12.1 per cent and M&G 2nd Dual Capital shares which are currently selling on a 23 per cent discount to the value of its underlying investments. "So even if the stock market does not move, investors will enjoy a capital gain," he explained.

"An even lower risk approach on the capital side would be to zero preference shares such as Ivory & Sims Optimum Income zero-preference shares."

All three trusts are due to be wound up in December 1997.

Income unit trusts showed an average total return of 116.9 per cent in the five years to April 1, says Microcap.

Corresponding investment trusts rose 139 per cent.

Investment trusts can be purchased from the managers at low cost. The minimum lump sum is usually £250. But if you need advice see a broker. The Association of Investment Trust Companies provides a list of them on 01-588 5347.

## Popular Peps near £1.5bn

Investment in personal equity plans in the financial year to April 5 totalled almost £1.5 billion says a survey from Best Pep Advice, the research group, (writes Lindsay Cook).

Take-up of the tax-free investments in the financial year was roughly double the £750 million invested in the calendar year at £1,476 million, said Mrs Nitya Bolam, a research analyst.

"Many of the smaller Pep managers have not yet completed their returns. But it is clear that the popularity of Peps in the last three months has been much greater than expected," she said. The survey shows about 60 per cent of the money was raised by 6 per cent of the plan managers.

MIM Britannia has the highest total at £190 million. Lloyds Bank and Midland Bank are next with £128 million and £105 million.

There were many new plans launched following last year's Budget, which scrapped the qualifying period for tax exemption in Peps and increased the investment limit for unit trust and investment trust only plans to £2,400. This led to most unit trust groups offering Pep plans.

Many of these new plans were not available for the full

year. Allied Dunbar has sold £41 million of Peps since it launched in December making it the third largest issuer since then. Marks and Spencer, which offered its first Peps in October has sold £40 million, says Best Pep Advice.

In this year's Budget more unit trusts and investment trusts were made available to Pep investors by the reduction of the UK investment limit to 50 per cent to qualify for £3,000 investment. Fidelity announced this week that it will now offer Pep investors a choice of international and income portfolios as a result of the change.



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## Pleased to advise at £20,000 a year for 3½ hours a week

By Barbara Ellis

SOLICITORS have just spent £70,000 on advertising themselves as financial advisers and may well continue the campaign, once they have judged its effectiveness.

What lawyers can gain from deeper involvement in financial services is clear. A delighted Home Counties solicitor recently told *The Lawyer* magazine that with just 3½ hours' work a week on financial advice, she had added nearly £20,000 a year to the income of her three-partner firm.

The advantages to clients in choosing a solicitor as financial adviser are less apparent and may be watered down by some of the lawyers' own advisory operations.

The Law Society can authorize solicitors to do investment business, provided it accounts for no more than 20 per cent of gross income.

Acknowledging that solicitors have no specific training in investment, Mr Walter Merricks, of the Law Society, said that they nevertheless gained a much experience by watching investment business being done, perhaps as advisers to trustees or through conveyancing.

"You don't have to have any formal training to become an investment adviser of any sort," he said.

For some years, solicitors have been able to point to two distinct advantages that they have over other financial advisers: their approach to commission and their extensive compensation scheme.

Under professional rules, commission that an insurance company or an investment body pays to a solicitor must be paid over to the client or set against his legal fees.

"We think clients are more likely to be happy that the advice they are getting is disinterested and that they are not being oversold — something which is always a danger with a commission-based system," Mr Merricks said.

The compensation fund run by the Law Society will pay out if a solicitor fails to account for money or loses someone's money through dishonesty. Unlike the Investors' Compensation Scheme



Merricks: neutral advice supervised by the Securities and Investments Board, the solicitors' fund need not wait for the firm or person involved to become insolvent. It also has no limit on payouts, whereas the SIB scheme has a £48,000 ceiling, which can be lowered if claims mount up.

However, the commission and compensation advantages appear to have been trimmed in the Law Society's joint venture with Sedgwick Personal Financial Management, named Solicitors Financial and Property Services.

Some 655 of the Society's 8,000 member firms have signed up with SFPS, representing 4,500 solicitors out of 45,000. They pay between £315 and £1,125 a year, depending on the size of the firm, for access to financial advice from Sedgwick.

The solicitor fills in a questionnaire with the client and passes it to Sedgwick. If the group sends written recommendations that are followed, it splits any commission 30/70 with the solicitor. If a local Sedgwick consultant is called in, the split is 50/50.

Mr Nick Turner, of SFPS, said that a client would get back only the commission paid to the solicitor — 50 per cent or 70 per cent.

"The arrangement with Sedgwick means solicitors do business as a 'permitted third party' and are absolved from many of the compliance rules under the Financial Services Act," he said, noting that the solicitors' task would be reduced to form-filling.

Although the solicitors pass the business to Sedgwick, the investment agreement is between Sedgwick and the client. The group has professional indemnity insurance and is covered by the Investors' Compensation Scheme, but not by the solicitors' compensation fund.

Mr Turner said compensation cover was a difficult issue depending on the extent of any negligence and complicated by the fact that agreements were with Sedgwick.

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## FAMILY MONEY

## When it pays to buy one pension with another

Janet Walford on the options for those who carry on working after their normal retirement age

ONE OF the biggest changes in work patterns seen for decades is likely to occur in the 1990s, as many more people continue to work after state pension age.

Many more over-60s are being tempted back to work, and may even be considering putting their extra income to work for their old age.

If they are lucky the new job will allow very late entrants into the company pension scheme, but if it does not they can contribute to a personal

pension. The maximum contribution which can be paid into a personal pension was increased from 27.5 per cent to 40 per cent of gross income in the 1989 Finance Act.

Until the earnings rule was abolished, most people reaching state pension age with an earned income had a straight choice — either carry on working or draw the state pension, but not both.

The state pension can be deferred for up to a maximum



of five years to age 70 for men or age 65 for women. If it is deferred, it will be increased in value by about 7.5 per cent over and above inflation for each year of deferral.

Rather than defer the state pension, however, many older people may achieve a better result by drawing the state pension and investing the equivalent amount in a personal pension for five years.

One advantage of this approach is that it does not have to cost a penny — the contributions can be met out of the state pension which would otherwise have been deferred. The performance of a personal pension should exceed the increases given by the state, and finally a tax advantage can be achieved.

However, this scheme only costs nothing if the individual can afford to defer the state pension.

## PENSIONS OPTIONS AT 65

Option 1 Defer State pension until age 70	Option 2 Take State pension at 65, reinvest it in a personal pension	Option 3 Take State pension at 65, but do not reinvest it
65 5,168	5,168	7,997
66 5,168	5,168	7,997
67 5,168	5,168	7,997
68 5,168	5,168	7,997
69 5,168	5,168	7,997
70+ 3,323	3,825	2,439

Basic State pension: £2,439. Earned income (until age 70): £7,000. Total gross income: £4,439. Net annual income in today's terms

of a tax-free return on the personal pension, there are additional tax advantages. The ability to take tax-free cash from a personal pension converts taxed income into a tax-free benefit.

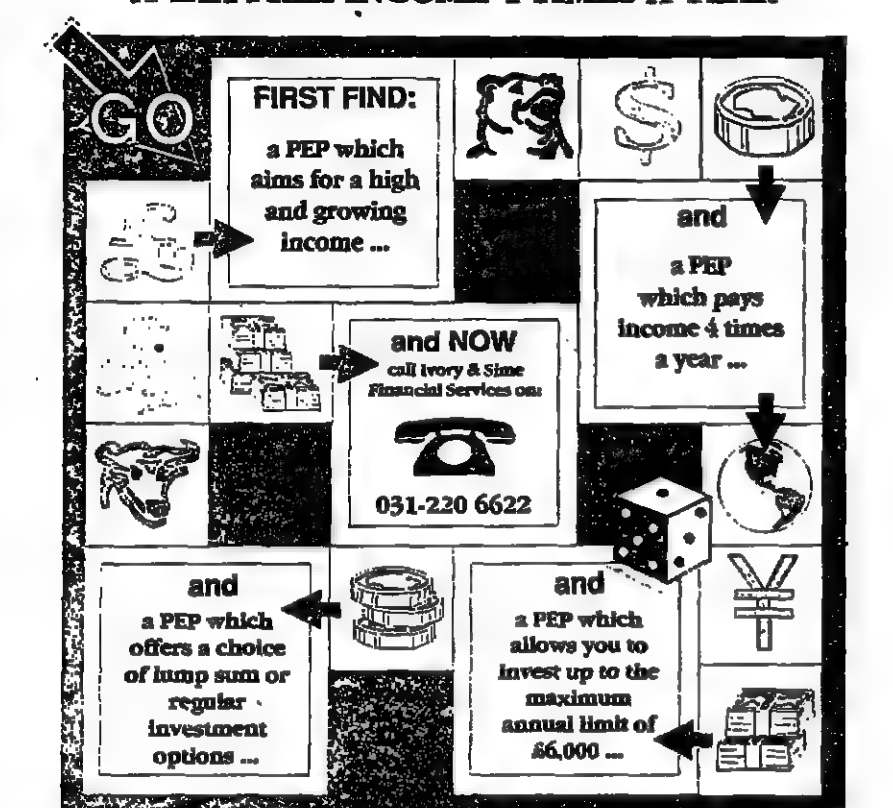
The age allowance provides another good reason for a man or woman over 65 to reinvest income into a pension while

income below the limit. In view of the short-term nature of such pension policies, equity investment through a unit trust or unit-linked plan may not be suitable. A personal pension with a short-term fixed interest or money fund could be ideal.

The table shows the income an OAP might receive each year from age 65 onwards resulting from three different options. The table makes it clear that it is significantly better to draw the state pension and reinvest it rather than defer it for five years. If the state pension is taken at the earliest possible age then net income will reduce to approximately one third when earnings cease.

The author is editor of Money Management

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## Steaming into profit



In heaven at Kirby Muxloe: David Jones, surrounded by Premier Auctions stock

A RAILWAY revival has meant that train-spotting schoolboys of the 1930s and 1940s may have a small fortune in memorabilia tucked away in the attic.

Over the years as steam has given way to more modern traction and the pre-nationalized companies have faded into history, items of railway memorabilia have become more valuable.

A world record £9,350 was paid at Christie's in 1988 for a workplate from a steam locomotive.

The growing interest from professional auctioneers has not always been welcomed by railway enthusiasts, who feel that auction houses lack specialist knowledge.

It was out of that feeling that Premier Auctions was born towards the end of 1986. Premier, based in Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire, holds six auctions a year in places like Bath and Kidlington, Oxfordshire, which attract collectors from all over Europe.

Dr David Jones, 31, is the only full-time member of the organization. He began specializing in railway ticket collections 10 years ago while a student at Hull University. Now he spends most of his time travelling in an effort to find auctionable items.

He is backed by a team of 10 volunteers. One of them is Mr Mike Soden, a legal executive with Cherwell District Council.

His Oxfordshire home is packed with engine nameplates, station signs, time-tables, railway cutlery and furniture — all obtained quite legally.

The railway is full of scale models and silverware used in the once grand dining cars is displayed in glass cases.

One room is packed full of station signs and nameplates that once graced the sides of crack Pacific express locomotives.

Mr Soden explained:

"David started off by selling tickets at Hull University. I think the ticket collectors are people who have not got much space. Most railwayman are heavy and demands a lot of room."

The first auction run by Premier at the Charing Cross Hotel dealt only in tickets. "Most ticket collectors these days tend to be middle-aged and try to specialize in an area with which they have some connection."

Collectors of tickets he says

sought after material is from the 30s, 40s and 50s, right in the heyday."

Posters generate a lot of interest, but not nearly as much as station signs. At one recent auction the platform sign from Kyle of Lochalsh fetched £1,000.

"Bidding on that would start at £100," said Mr Soden. "But nameplates of steam locomotives were going for between £3,000 and £4,300 at our most recent auction, and this really is the lower end of the market."

He advises collectors: "Buy things that look nice and are in good condition. Go for the quality items that are best in their field. Be selective."

Christie's railway auctions attract dealers and collectors from around the world. A spokesman said: "The large scale railways do attract a lot of interest. We hold the world record for a works plate of the London North Eastern Railway from Doncaster which sold for £9,350."

The plate — LNER 1818 — came from a streamlined Sir Nigel Gresley A4 locomotive, Silver Link.

The spokesman continued: "There is a lot of interest in railway memorabilia. We also have an annual sale of small gauge railway items just before Christmas."

Sotbey's say train sets generate interest but have so far declined to deal with the real thing.

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## FAMILY MONEY

Jon Ashworth finds a cleric who was not treated charitably

# Canon fires a broadside at charges for charities

A MORE businesslike attitude to small charities from one of the big four banks left a vicar with unexpected charges.

Canon Derek Tansill found when he opened his bank statement that National Westminster Bank had charged him £3.77 for holding an account, on behalf of a church youth club, even though no withdrawals had been made and the account was in credit.

The Canon, who is Vicar of Horsham in West Sussex, opened the account with NatWest locally for a small youth club run by the parish.

The current account had a balance of just under £60 when the charges were levied. The Canon queried the charges and asked for the account to be closed and was then astonished to find that another £3.77 had been levied.

When he complained about the extra cost, the bank rescinded the second charge. NatWest told the Canon it had a new policy which meant that the current accounts of charities were liable for bank charges — even when in credit. Canon Tansill thought this unreasonable, as there are usually no charges for private accounts in credit. Had NatWest, he wondered, decided that charities were not to be encouraged? Or was it that they are not lucrative enough?



Turbulent priest: Canon Derek Tansill took NatWest to task over the youth club

But most of all, he was annoyed that no warning was given of the policy change. They did not warn those of us that run charitable accounts of the charges, and do not explain how they distinguish between an account in credit run by a charity as opposed to a private account. It makes you wonder where their value judgements lie." Canon Tansill said it seemed doubly unfair, since several church

accounts were held at the same branch. "All our church accounts are there, and some hold quite a bit of money. You have to complain first before a charge will be rescinded."

Current accounts run by charities often face charges, even though they hold large amounts and make few withdrawals. Private individuals may hold a small amount, write cheques and withdraw cash frequently, but are not charged if in credit.

NatWest denies it had changed the rules for charities. The policy on smaller accounts is to cover costs. Larger accounts, on the Oxfam scale, are treated as business accounts because of their size. A spokesman said the bank donated £2.5 million to charity in 1989. The other high street banks approach charities in a similar way. Midland said it treats large charities as business accounts. Lloyds said charging is a matter of discretion and Barclays negotiates rates with organizers.

## LETTERS

## Cheaper way into gilts

From MRS J.G.

Sir, I would be grateful for your help. As a pensioner I shall now transfer my small savings from the building society to take advantage of the tax allowance which as a married woman I shall now have from April 5.

I intended to put half into income bonds as I need a small monthly income and I would like to put the other half into medium-dated gilts so that if interest rates do fall I shall have some interest at 12 plus per cent.

However, when I asked Lloyds Bank what it would cost to buy shares they quoted Stamp Duty 0.5 per cent, broker's 1.65 per cent (£25 minimum) and a fee of £5.

These costs would effectively make the buying price 2.15 per cent above the quoted price and make the yield much less. Is there a cheaper way to buy?

MRS J.G.

Warwick.

I sympathise with your predicament. Unfortunately stockbrokers do now charge at a commercial level and the banks have no choice but to pass these charges on to their customers. I should perhaps mention that Stamp Duty is not applicable to the purchase of gilts so that you will only be looking at the 1.65 per cent plus £5 commission charge. There is an alternative

though it has certain drawbacks. It is possible to purchase gilts through the National Savings Stock Register, details of which you can obtain from any Post Office. This does have the disadvantage that there is a delay of a few days between placing the order and the actual allotment of stock so that it is not possible to know in advance the precise purchase price.

On the other hand the commission charges amount to £1 for the first £250 purchase consideration plus 50p for each additional £125 of cost (in whole or in part); thus these work out at roughly a quarter of the rates quoted by you. In addition, interest on stocks held on this register is always paid without deduction of income tax, although it does of course remain taxable.

In view of the abolition of composite rate tax which the Chancellor announced in his Budget a few weeks ago, which will take effect in April 1991, I wonder whether you might prefer to make a temporary investment for this year only in income bonds and/or the National Savings Investment Account. When the new regime comes in next year you can then review the position and consider investing perhaps a part of your funds in some suitable high rate deposit account with a bank or building society.

## Inheritance and equalization of assets

FROM Mr B.J. Whelan

Sir, May I comment on "Divide and equalize to leave more for you" (March 31).

The equalization of assets of husbands and wives made sense when inheritance tax was charged at varying rates, so that, as well as using up the nil rate band on the death of the first spouse, advantage could be taken of both sets of lower rate bands. With a single rate of 40 per cent, there is usually no need, on the first death of husband and wife, to give more to the children than an amount equal to the nil rate band; otherwise, tax could be incurred unnecessarily and give beneficiaries problems meeting the payment due, and the 11 per cent interest.

Your correspondent correctly says that, on the first death, the gift of a half-share in the family house to the children should be made "provided they trust their heirs."

But matters may not always stay in the control of those heirs, in the event of the death or bankruptcy of any of them. This does not give an insuperable problem but careful planning and advice is required to avoid risk to the security of the surviving spouse in the family home where she or he only owns half of it.

No reference is made to capital gains tax on any gain accruing to the children on the eventual disposal of the share in the family home given to them on the death of the first parent. The days when children could get relief from tax on a gain realized on a house occupied by a dependant relative have passed; but again, as long as the right steps are followed the problem can be overcome. Yours faithfully, B.J. WHELAN, Harrington & Carmichael, Solicitors, 4 Station Road, Aldershot, Hampshire.

## Husbands still 'more equal' than wives

From Mrs E.R. Clarke

Sir, Like Mrs Shipley-Collins, I too feel that my husband is still "more equal" than I am under the Independent Taxation regulations. I see that a husband may get the age allowance for a higher age group if his wife is in that age group although he is not. This does not apparently apply if the husband is in the higher age group — the wife still receives only the allowance due to her age group.

I wrote to the taxman asking about this a few weeks ago. My husband wrote to the taxman

the same day with a different inquiry, and received his reply a week ago. I am still awaiting my reply. Yours faithfully, Mrs E.R. CLARKE, Harrow, Middlesex.

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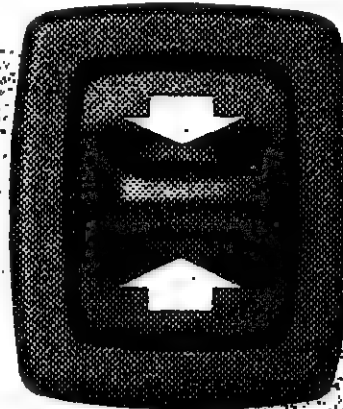
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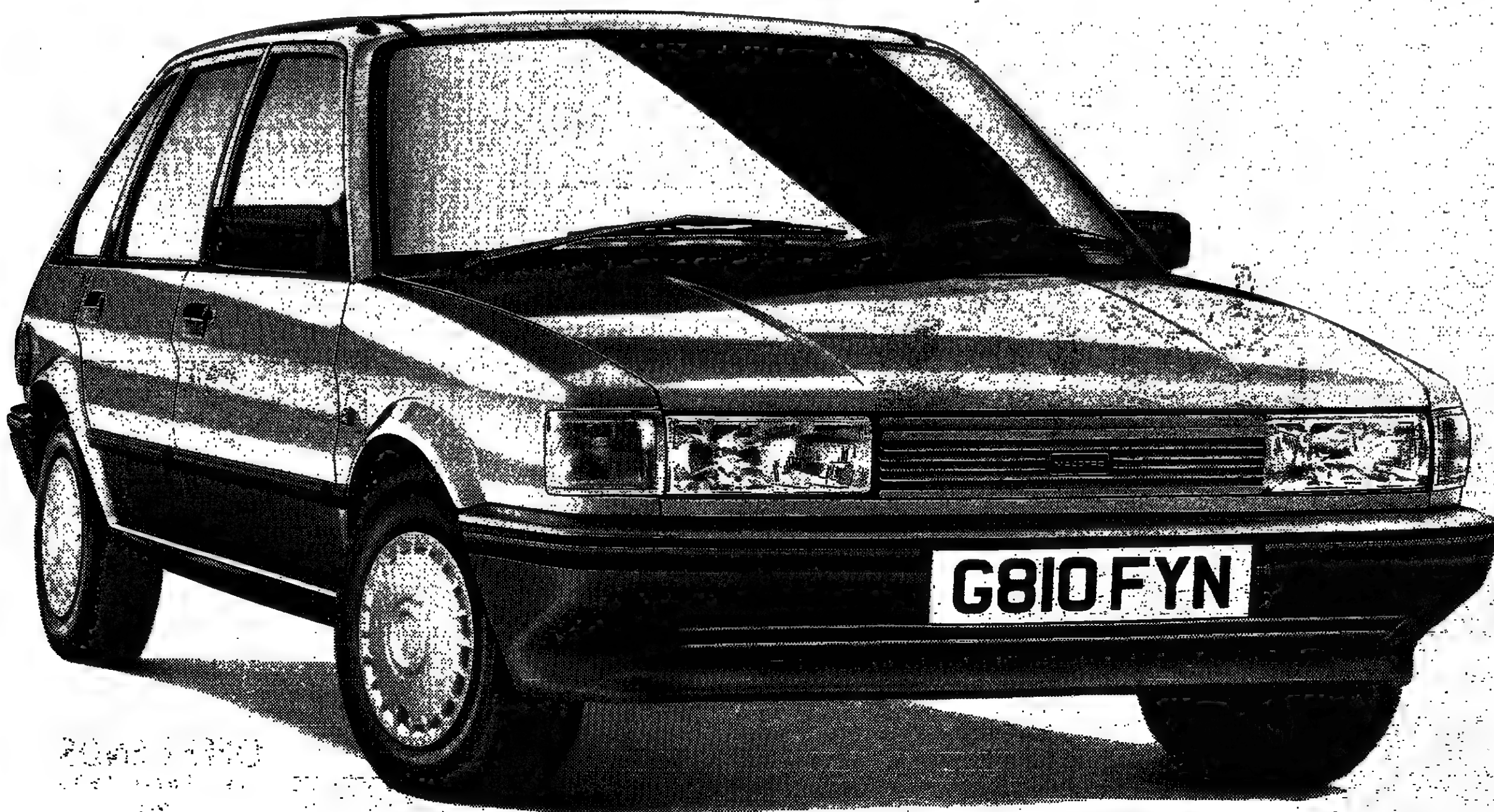
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## REVIEW

SECTION 3

SATURDAY APRIL 14 1990

## Intruders in Nature's wonderland

PHOTOGRAPHS: TIMOTHY O'KEEFE / CHRISTIAN ZUBER



I had been on the Galápagos Islands only four hours before discovering evidence of the growing threat to the unique wildlife of this Pacific archipelago. The equatorial night was quiet, except for the gentle sound of the outboard motor on my dinghy crossing the dark waters of Academy Bay, when my companion spotted cormorants. Crouching over the side she began pulling them in as we worked our way along a 100-yard fishing net strung across the inlet which leads to Puerto Ayora, the main settlement of the Galápagos.

Tui de Roy, a writer and photographer who has lived all her life in this remote and mysterious place, was angry but unsurprised. She knew the nylon net was of the type that traps any sizeable sea life that comes its way: from cod to lobsters, penguins and marine iguana, the swimming reptile known only in these waters.

Last year the Ecuadorian government banned such gill nets in an attempt to halt the massacre of sharks and other species after Far Eastern companies had taken to slaughtering huge quantities of the predators just for their fins, a delicacy believed in the Orient to have aphrodisiac properties. Killing the sharks was akin to killing the lions of the Serengeti; it meant removing the leading predators and disrupting Nature's fragile chain, the existence of which has preserved the Galápagos as one of the world's last near-pristine marine and land habitats.

On this night the net was intended for smaller species. But big holes in the mesh testified to the struggle of sharks and larger creatures to break free. Nothing was in the net, a sign that it had just been set.

It's amazing that people can do this just a few yards from the port," Tui said as she left the net twisted on itself, fouling at least one night's fishing for its owner. Port is, in truth, a big word for Puerto Ayora, a dusty little township of some 7,000 people that boasts a mile or so of paved road but which lacks fresh water, telephones, a hospital or a 24-hour electricity supply.

It would have been hard to come up with a more vivid illustration of the threats facing the Galápagos, the strange cluster of volcanic islands whose plants and animals revealed the process of natural selection to the young Charles Darwin when he sailed here in *The Beagle* in 1835. At a time when rubbish littered the Antarctic and human need and greed have laid waste to so much wilderness from the Amazon to Africa, it is surprising that Darwin's "little world within itself" should have survived the abuses of man relatively unscathed for so long.

The Galápagos Islands have managed to escape the usual

**The Galápagos Islands have survived since prehistory as unique marine and land habitats. Now they are under threat. Charles Bremner discovers the causes of conflict and seeks the cures**



Tourism v Nature: marine iguana (left) and waved albatross

human ravages through their isolation — more than 600 miles east of the South American continent, far from shipping routes — and thanks to the wisdom of the Ecuadorian government, which accepted international advice in the late 1950s and proclaimed them a national park.

The isolation of Darwin's day persisted more or less until well beyond the invention of the jet aircraft. Until the 1970s, the human residents consisted of a couple of thousand fishermen, farmers, servants, European settlers and prisoners on a now-defunct penal colony.

Once known to sailors as the *Islas Encantadas*, the Galápagos have not made the news like the Amazon forests; no rock stars have adopted their cause. There have been no catastrophes such as oil spills or villainous ivory hunters to seize the world's attention, but the pressures have been building up. Word has been passing among naturalists that all is not well. A few days on the islands were enough to confirm this.

It is not too dramatic to say that the archipelago is in danger of losing those extraordinary qualities that enabled it to survive as a natural wonderland, a place where strange creatures such as giant tortoises and booby birds live in a harmony that has delighted visitors since they first arrived in the 1500s.

The story is the all too familiar conflict between preservation and

around with spearguns, banned in local waters, rather as cowboys once flouted their six-shooters.

A mile away, alongside the turquoise waters of the bay, staff tell a similar story at the headquarters of the research station run by the Charles Darwin Foundation, an international body that has worked with the Ecuadorian authorities for conservation since the early 1960s.

Dr Padraig Whelan, the deputy director, sees tourism and the attendant commercial development as the main threat. "Galápagos is a world heritage site, one of the most important areas for studying evolution. If this is happening here, what can be happening elsewhere?" he asks.

Fausto Cepeda, the director of the Galápagos National Park, is outspoken about what he says is the failure of his government to protect the islands against illegal fishing and to control plans for the establishment of full-scale Caribbean-style resorts on the islands. His service controls 98 per cent of the territory of the 19 islands, all but four of which are uninhabited. New settlement is restricted to the remaining 2 per cent.

Until now, resistance to development has helped to preserve the remoteness of the islands. Among other commodities, Santa Cruz, the main inhabited island, lacks telecommunications, a refreshing phenomenon when there seems almost nowhere on the planet without its satellite phone links. Word from the outside world still depends on the arrival of mail boats from Guayaquil on the mainland. Land transport also remains deliberately primitive, as anyone who arrives by the daily Boeing at the little airport on Baltra island learns.

Unless you are joining a cruise nearby, the trip to Puerto Ayora amounts to an adventure in itself. A crowded and ancient bus clanks through the mid-day heat and deposits you at a landing from which a tiny flat-bottomed ferry takes you across to Santa Cruz. By that stage of the trip, I was musing on the appropriateness of the English name the early explorers gave to the big island: *Indefatigable*.

Another jam-packed little bus takes you on a bone-jarring 90-minute drive over a rutted track through a landscape of cactus, lava and some upland forest to the port. You realize why the better-off tourists sign up for cruises; only the Ecuadorians and the less well-off foreigners opt for finding one of the few hotel rooms.

On my trip to town, fellow passengers included eco-hippies, naturalists, an Ecuadorian lawyer scouting out the prospects for tourist development and an American shop-owner and his family who, forewarned that no

land transport existed, had brought along their four bicycles from home in Emporium, Pennsylvania. The lawyer kept saying "It's a disgrace" as the bus shuddered across water gullies in the track. "They don't even want to build a road because they say it will bring in too many people."

Many locals resent the influx, which is assured under a constitution that guarantees the right of Ecuadorian citizens to move where they want. Raul Flores, a local radio commentator, shop-

keeper and politician, points to the padlock on his front gate as he sits under his bougainvillea lamenting the arrival of "unscrupulous people" who, he says, have no comprehension of the need to preserve the natural treasures of the islands. "They don't seem to understand that they risk destroying the source of all our wealth."

But he speaks for many of the locals, including the town hall, when he says he believes that land-based tourism should be carefully cultivated in the interests of the

Galápagos people. It is a familiar argument and one that bears considerable weight, given the vast gulf between the wealth of the visitors and the subsistence life suffered by most Ecuadorians. "It's not right that the big companies come and take our riches. I don't think that the only way people should visit Galápagos should be in five-star boats," Mr Flores says. Many local officials, including those of the Galápagos Institute (Ingala), an umbrella development

Continued overleaf

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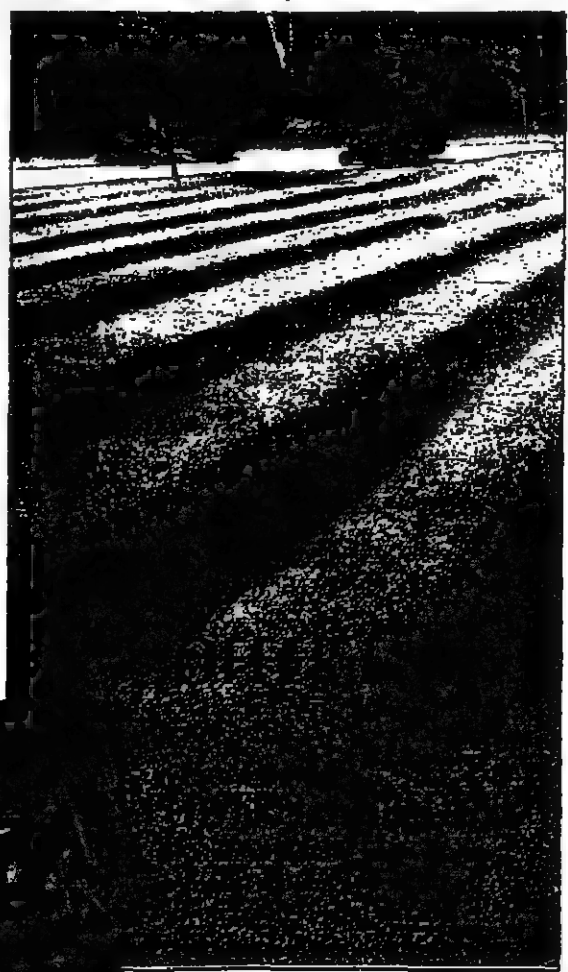
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## THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN

## Paying one's royal dues



It's always good to have the last word and I've got it. Some weeks ago the great Nimmo attacked my barber, having learnedly traced his newest joke back to Joe Miller's extravagantly old joke book. This week all 1,101 pages of Frank Muir's *Oxford Book of Humorous Prose* hit my desk. As early as page three he ascribes this tale to the even older *The Schoolmaster or Teacher of Table Philosophy* (1583). "There came unto Rome a certain gentleman very like Augustus. The emperor noticed him and demanded of him if his mother had sometimes been to Rome."

"No," said the gentleman. "But my father hath often been."

It gets better. In the early 5th century, Macrobius's version ran: "Die mihi, adulter, fuit aliquando mater tua Romana?"

Negavit ille nec contentus adjecit: "Sed pater meus saepe."

Beat that, Derek. Now we move forward 14 centuries.

THIS week's revelation that the Queen, with an estimated personal fortune of £2.4 billion, is the richest woman in the world had about the same impact as the news that Christmas comes but once a year. After all, she paid no death duties on the demise of George VI and she has subsequently paid no income tax on her personal investments for 36 years and quite right.

It was not always so. In 1842 Queen Victoria volunteered to pay income tax. Edward VII continued this practice. When George V succeeded in 1910 he was informed by the Government (who had consulted Sir Rufus Isaac, the Solicitor-General), that he need not subscribe. In return he offered to contribute to the cost of state visits out of his civil list money. He also generously chipped in £100,000 towards the cost of the First World War — which must have bought a few more howitzers than that it would today. He later took an economy cut in the civil list during the depression from 1931-35. In 1948 King George VI also handed back £100,000 saved from the civil list during the Second World War.

THERE was a special poignancy about Ian Charleson's memorial service at St James's Piccadilly on Sunday afternoon. Memorials should be for the great and the good who are full of years. Ian was born in 1949 and his packed congregation of contemporaries had every right to expect to enjoy his fine friendship, sharp sense of fun and his special talent for decades to come. I only worked with him once, in a television show, when he gave a

witty sketch of an avant-garde composer defending his anti-war rock musical.

Among tributes from his friends and family — especially his brother Kenneth, singing "My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose" — Richard Griffiths touched a wonderful joking chord with two of Ian's favourite stories. There was the American fan who asked him about his Ariel

transformation costume in *The Tempest*. It had a 5ft wide collar in which Ian's head nestled like a pearl in a vast oyster shell.

"Was that supposed to represent a sea nymph?" the fan enquired.

"Yes," he said.

"Well," she came back, "you didn't cut it."

And there was the famous under-rehearsed Stratford Shrew. "Everyone knew their lines but no one knew when to say them." After half a technical and no dress rehearsal, the actors had the statutory two hours' break before the first night.

Ian and Anthony Higgins made their way separately to Stratford church and found themselves look-

ing up at the famous bust of Shakespeare. Higgins heard Ian muttering: "Oh, William, forgive us, for we know not what we do."

At the Olivier Awards later that evening Michael Bryant, whose song for Best Actor in a Supporting Role was about the only undisputed choice, paid further tribute to a man who could play a three-and-a-half-hour *Hamlet* while dying, and come off stage joking. As Griffiths said, "Remember him."

I OWE both the Prime Minister and Lord St John of Fawley an apology. In trouble with a tooth and buckering between Chelsea and Southampton, I have not had time to have it fixed. My tongue has, of course, sought out the jagged edges and created its own painful crater.

As a result, when last week I dictated the information that these two had once taken "French lessons in tandem", my ravaged diction made it come out as "French lessons in Camden". It sounds like a

dubious small ad with discipline thrown in and it does not sound like either of them.

KEITH Waterhouse and Sandy Wilson are among many who have politely corrected me on the quotation from that review number which I recalled from the Greek earthquake gala in the 1950s.

It was written by Sandy. He included it in a Watergate review, *See You Later*. It was originally meant for Walter Crisham in the second edition of *Hermione Gingold's* 1948 review at the Comedy, *Slings and Arrows*. "Wally didn't like it and it was given to Wallace Eaton, who made it so sinister nobody laughed." The sketch was about a 17th-century night-watchman. The opening line was "12 o'clock and everything's ghastly". The couplet I should have quoted was:

"Hush, hush, whisper, who dares/Christopher Wren is designing some stairs."

Sandy originally wrote, "Christopher Wren is saying his prayers", and adds: "Hermione suggested the new line which is much funnier." Keith Waterhouse points out the source of my confusion — E. C. Bentley's famous *Clerihew*:

"Sir Christopher Wren/Said I'm dining with some men/If anyone calls/Say I'm designing St Paul's."

Sandy goes on to quote another. *Gingold* improvement for a number of his, *Medusa*. "I wrote one couplet about Zeus seducing Medusa:

"He wooed me in every conceivable shape/As a horse, as a bull, as a bear, as an ape."

"Hermione changed the second line to 'As a horse, as a bull, as a bee, as a grape'. It was also much funnier."

LATE one night in Southampton I hoped to celebrate a successful preview of *Same Old Moon* with my annual helping of fish and chips. Unfortunately "Big George" — open till midnight — was, at 11.50pm, only serving doner kebabs. However, the obliging man at the Portsmouth Fish and Chip and Chinese Takeaway just up the road abandoned his kung fu video and fried some splendid cod which made it all worthwhile.



## CAROL THATCHER

## If I were...

I would not be too dismayed about my conviction on five counts of conspiracy, lying and obstructing congressional inquiries, even though everyone thinks I may be the one Iranian defendant who will sample life behind prison bars. On our side of the Atlantic, a little law-breaking, walk-on roles in political scandals and other assorted oversights in the Oval Office do not necessarily signal a terminal downfall.

Negative notoriety? No way, we Americans have perfected social recovery with such state-of-the-art aplomb that my comeback will upstage the return of Perrier. For a start, I've managed to enrol in the ranks of the great untuck ahead of Adnan Khashoggi and Imelda Marcos, whose trial pantomimes are currently playing to packed court houses in New York. They will surely be in no position to cash in on their predicament before my sentencing date of June 11.

It is also a consolation that our prisons are a great improvement on England's *Strangeways*, and would probably collect a few roses in any good hotel guide. Take the Lompoc minimum security camp in California, which has welcomed Bob Haldeman (of Watergate fame) and, more recently, Ivan Boesky, whose insider antics put him inside.



## Admiral Poindexter

Ivan occupied himself with bodybuilding and religious studies and kept in touch with news from his old haunts via the *Wall Street Journal*. Apparently even take-aways are delivered with a "Have a nice day" all-American service. Even before his release, Park Avenue hostesses were pleading with him to come straight round to their cocktail parties. I also recall how Ollie Mania reached such a pitch that at one stage my old side-Oliver North was commanding \$25,000 an appearance on the lecture circuit — and now he's making a pile marketing bullet-proof vests.

So why should I worry about stopping the buck and carrying the can, otherwise known as protecting the political viability of Ronald Reagan? This is the country of the double standard, where one misdeed on the way up can send a career into tailspin. Remember Gary Hart and Donna Rice? Their affair put paid to his presidential hopes and kept the comedians in business for months. I particularly liked the restaurant near the Colorado ski slopes where, when Gary dropped in one day, they promptly changed the day's special meal to "Chicken on a bed of Rice".

But once you're at the top, a freefall from grace just opens more doors. There is a board game selling well in Washington where you have to get round without being arrested on drugs charges, being caught as an adulterer or taking back-handers. That's tame stuff.

I'm working on a game based on a plan of the White House which is a race to the shredding machine. First you write the President's cue cards for a typical day of meetings with a visiting head of an unfriendly government, then race to the press conference before rival spokespersons to explain what the President really meant (there is a risk here if you do not go first to the tape machine to collect the spoils). Next you must rush to the computer room to set the records straight, then to the satellite phone link to divert millions of dollars from one of the President's causes to another. I think I'll call it *Admirable*.

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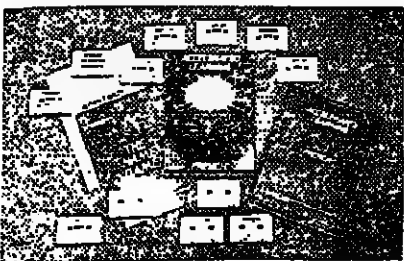
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## Working against Nature

Continued from previous page

ment authority, and the provincial government, favour building more facilities in the inhabited areas. Some businessmen are floating far more ambitious schemes. Rodrigo Cisneros, a politician-businessman based in Quito, has plans for roadbuilding on the big protected island of Isabela, formerly Albemarle, and the creation of a full-scale tourist resort.

He stands a good chance of going ahead, particularly if he wins his campaign for the Galapagos parliamentary seat in forthcoming elections. Mr Cisneros does not like the conservationists, particularly the Darwin station.

In Puerto Ayora, I came across Benjamin Rosales, a businessman from Guayaquil, in mainland Ecuador, who had just bought land at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the Galapagos administrative capital on San Cristobal island. His project is to build holiday flats, the first, he says, in the Galapagos. "I don't have to get any special permission," he says.

They are overdoing all the talk about conservation, he says. "There's no point in having 3,000 lazy people who are doing nothing except hanging around the disco. What's the good of being a wonder of the world if we don't show it to the world? The new Galapagos will be reserved for an elite tourism, of course. We don't want this becoming like the Greek Islands or the Caribbean."

It is obvious to any visitor that the package-tour crowd would never take to the Galapagos like they do to the more lush, palm-fringed tropical paradises to be found elsewhere in the Pacific. In the early days of their discovery, whalers and pirates used to curse the islands' austere volcanic landscape. Although the giant tortoises enchanted Darwin, Herman Melville found them sinister.

"Little but reptile life is found here," he wrote. "The chief source of life is a hiss." He was talking about the strange wheezing noise made by the giant tortoises, creatures whose wizened faces were the inspiration for Hollywood's ET.

strikes horror among the naturalists, and the older tour operators. David Balfour, a long-time resident Briton who runs the biggest tour company from a wooden hut perched on the edge of Academy Bay, says the fact that the government started the park when tourism was in its infancy had saved the archipelago so far, but things have gone beyond saturation point, with 44,000 visitors last year.

Since there are only a handful of good landing sites, it means that tourists who have paid thousands of American dollars to come to consort with the tame wildlife find themselves queuing up to land behind fellow Americans and Europeans to catch a glimpse of an iguana, a sealion or a penguin.

Mr Balfour thinks that the park administration should take a stand, backed by the Darwin Foundation, and press the government to restrict the numbers of tourists. But Mr Cepeda, the park director, says that his organization, which is a division of the Ecuadorian agriculture ministry, is powerless. (The park's problems were emphasized during my visit by the start of a pay strike by employees.) He fears the worst, he says, particularly if Mr Cisneros has his way. The

introducing foreign species into the islands. Much of the foundation's time is already taken up "putting out fires", as he puts it, caused by introduced plant and animal predators. These include rats, red ants, dogs, cats and pigs.

Rats brought on ships have killed every giant tortoise hatching on one island. Pigs snatch the eggs of sea turtles as they are being laid and use their sense of smell to catch the surviving turtles as they hatch under the sand.

The islands desperately need a regime of quarantine, Mr Whelan says. "The ecosystem is so fragile and can be tipped over so easily."

The alternative, he says, could be allowing the Galapagos to turn into something like Hawaii or New Zealand, which have become "a total mess because people have brought in different species."

What is lacking, say the local authorities, the Darwin administration and the parks service, is the political will to co-ordinate and enforce an overall plan for the dev-



elopment and protection of the archipelago. At present, the area is subject to an array of clashing jurisdictions: from the provincial authorities to the military and the Ingala umbrella body. Various plans have come and gone.

At present, there is no control of overall numbers, only a licensing system for the boat operators, which requires them, among other things, to carry a National Park guide with every group of tourists.

First, say the local experts, the government must follow through with action to implement the Marine Resources Reserve, which it declared for the archipelago in 1986 but never enforced. The reserve had been recommended by international scientists for years as a way of protecting the diverse aquatic species that flourish off the Galapagos.

The authorities must also take steps to enforce the fishing decrees enacted after the outcry from tourists and naturalists over the shark slaughter last year. Among other things, this prohibited all gill nets, spear-guns and night lobster fishing. It regulated areas, allowing only local fishermen to work within five miles of shore and allowed only Ecuadorian boats to fish, only for tuna, within 15 miles.

But local officials say little enforcement is carried out by the navy, and that illegal fishing is continuing. "We have reports of big vessels not showing any flag fishing close in," says Mr Cepeda.

Perhaps it is too much to hope that the government of one small and poor country can prevail against global pressures that have spoiled many another wilderness. And perhaps the world must tackle far more urgent priorities than trying to preserve the purity of a living museum. Many locals are resigned to accepting that things will never return to the isolated old ways. For example, Tui de Roy is planning to move to New Zealand later this year.

But it would be a pity to lose that corner of the globe where, as Darwin put it, "both in space and time, we seem to be brought somewhat near to that great fact — that mystery of mysteries — the first appearance of the new beings on this earth."

## PREDATORS FROM ELSEWHERE

ONLY two out of 14 major islands remain untouched by animals introduced from elsewhere, by pirates, whalers and settlers. Many have now run wild. With no quarantine or serious import controls, foreign species are still landing, including the aggressive Norway rat, introduced only 10 years ago, and red fire ants, which have recently become a nuisance.

On Pinzón, for nearly 100 years, rats have been killing every single giant tortoise hatching, leaving only an ageing adult population. On Santa Cruz Island, wild pigs have been snatching the eggs of sea turtles at the instant they are being laid. Goats have multiplied furiously, wiping out huge stands of native plants, robbing wildlife of their food and eroding the soil.

Since 1964, the Darwin Foundation and the National Park Service have been trying to eradicate or control the animals. Goats have been removed from five small islands; rats have been exterminated on several islets; wild dogs that were threatening colonies of land and marine iguanas, seals and penguins on Isabela have been controlled. But the Foundation says the problem is enormous — and time is critical.

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## A CHILDHOOD: BRUCE KENT

# 'The martyr tradition of sticking to your principles has had a strong influence on me'

Bruce Kent can remember exactly where he was when he heard that the atom bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima. "I was 16 and standing on Marylebone Road near Madame Tussaud's. I saw the headline on a newspaper and I remember thinking, 'This is great. Those people deserve it, now they've got it and it's the end of the war. This is wonderful.'"

Today, 45 years on, Bruce Kent (Monsignor Bruce Kent until he "retired" in 1987 when the strain between his pastoral and political roles became too much), is chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. His conversion to the peace movement has been a lifelong journey.

Born in 1925, he was brought up in a secure, relatively prosperous Hampstead Garden Suburb, the middle child of a Canadian couple, a Presbyterian father sent to London to manage an American company and a staunchly Catholic mother. His father had been badly injured in the First World War, nearly losing a leg.

"He was in hospital for two years after the war and right up until the time of his death, many years later, little bits of metal would emerge from this rather chafed-up leg. He never really talked about how it happened. They never do."

As part of the marriage arrangement it had been agreed that the children should be brought up as Catholics, and so Bruce Kent and his elder brother were sent off to a Catholic prep school in Hitchin. It was run by a convert, a former Anglican person and a strict disciplinarian who was very keen on the lives of the martyrs.

"I would say that in the early part of my education this had a very strong influence on me in terms of the martyrs' courage and their resistance. Not that I'm a martyr at all. I've had a very comfortable existence. But the whole martyr tradition, in that you stick to your principles and go on, has had a strong influence on me."

He does not say what influence the corporal punishment the school dealt out to quite small boys had, but it has certainly left an indelible print on his memory.

"I'll never forget seeing these little kids lining up for the swimming baths with their little bottoms black and blue. Regularly. Something called a 'tollie' was used. A sort of leather strap."

At the age of 10 the war stepped in and his father arranged for the three children and their mother to go to Canada, a glorious experience of childhood, tobogganing and skating in the winter, camp in the summer. Sent to an inter-denominational, mainly Protestant school, he won the scripture prizes twice. He was also bugler with the school corps. It was a painful shock when, in 1943, the family were brought back to wartime England, his father having had enough of living by himself.



"He was a very good father, a very strong man and I think small boys are over-awed by strong parents. Meals were always absolutely punctual and he was very tidy. I'm still always punctual for appointments and, compared with the rest of the CND headquarters, my office is relatively tidy."

"My father was in the Home Guard in the war and my brother and I would be always finding bullets for sten guns in drawers along with his regalia from the Freemasons."

"He wasn't an active Freemason. I think he stopped going to the meetings for the same reason that he didn't approve of the Catholic Church — there was too much dressing up."

His father's disapproval did not,

by Ray Connolly

however, prevent him from sending his sons off to Stonyhurst. "He met somebody whose son was a Jesuit priest. So we were sent off to Stonyhurst on a bleak October day in 1943. The culture shock was drastic after the luxury of Canada. For a year I hated it, then I enjoyed it very much."

Like nearly all public schools of the time, there was an ongoing element of the military as boys were prepared for Sandhurst or Cranwell, as well as Oxford or Cambridge, and a parallel existing between the cadet corps and the structure of the school.

"Looking back one can be highly critical, but the militarism was just part of the air of the time, the normal thing," he says. He was as enthusiastic as the next boy. Indeed, he might easily have avoided National Service in that both his parents were Canadian, but he positively chose to be British. Not to have been in the forces would have been a disgrace, to have let the school down.

"If we're looking for building blocks of a childhood, I suppose you could say I wanted to conform. Not to have been an officer would have been a disgrace, too."

In the Army, saying one's prayers at night was the first challenge. "It

was nothing to do with religion," he admits. "It was to do with being strong. I remember there was another boy, a Protestant, saying his prayers, too, and this was quite a surprise to me. Protestants weren't supposed to do that sort of thing."

He enjoyed the Army, being transferred to the armoured corps after showing a mechanical aptitude (hooking together the links in a lavatory chain and being able to reassemble a bicycle pump) and ending up as a second lieutenant.

"I suppose I saw myself as the cream of the cream, with a paternalistic attitude towards the rest of the world. I remember when some soldier got into trouble for stealing something, I got on my motor cycle in the middle of the night and rode all the way up to Wakefield Prison to see if he was being properly looked after."

He was, of course, much more interested in religion than most boys of his age. On one occasion, because his regiment contained a large number of Poles, he went to the colonel and said he wanted to borrow a three-ton truck to take everyone to a weekend mass on the Feast of the Assumption.

"The colonel must have been laughing inside but he said, 'Fine, I'll get you a three-tonner, and he put a notice up to tell the Poles.'

At seven o'clock the next morning, there was the three-tonner, there was the driver and there was Bruce Kent... and nobody else. He had the three-tonner to himself to go to mass."

By the time he got to Oxford he had already decided he wanted to be a priest. The previous Easter he had returned to Stonyhurst for a retreat where a powerful Jesuit speaker had addressed them with the question "What are you doing for God?" rather in the style of "Your Country Needs You."

"Somehow it got me. It was almost a Billy Graham experience and I was determined that was what I would do. It was a blinding conviction. But it involved me in great problems with my father. He didn't mind me being a Catholic, but being a priest was too much."

"There were an awful lot of family difficulties and he left home for a few days. In the end we came to a compromise. I agreed to go to university for three years first and, if I was still determined to be a priest at the end, he agreed he wouldn't make a fuss about it. He gave me a 350cc motor cycle as a sign of the re-establishment of our relationship."

Oxford was very agreeable. He studied law, for no particular reason, was a member of no political party and had no real ambition. He spoke in the Union once, was president of the Newman Society and went to daily mass with the Dominicans.

Intellectually there were a few humbling experiences to come. Totally self-confident in the way his religion had been taught to him, he turned up at a philosophy dis-



Bruce Kent today and, above left, in cadet uniform at his school in Canada: "I suppose you could say I just wanted to conform"

cession and saw his "17 different ways of proving the existence of God" quickly reduced by a few clever sentences. "I realized life was a little more complicated and God wasn't as easily attainable as I'd thought."

By the time he took his finals in 1952 he was certain about the priesthood and went off to a seminary in Merdodshire.

"At first I was determined to keep up with the outside world and took the *Guardian Weekly*, but gradually one's interests tumbled into bee-keeping, mending one's bicycle and doing the seminary pantomime. I vaguely remember feeling enthusiastic when we in-

vaded Suez." He was ordained at Westminster in 1958, the year of the first CND Aldermaston march, but it meant nothing to him.

His first real knowledge of CND came at Easter a year later, when the marchers obstructed the cars of the wedding he, as a young parish priest, was organizing in Kensington High Street.

He finally came to CND through Catholic fundamentalism when he could not understand why the Church, which makes it "crystal clear" that you do not assault innocent civilians, was not speaking out against nuclear weapons which were indiscriminate in

those they attacked and in a war would be aimed at civilians. From that point he began to get out of line.

There was no road-to-Damascus experience, but in 1969 at the age of 40, he went to Biafra and saw first-hand the corruption of politics — starving children surrounded by millions of pounds' worth of British-made armoured

trucks. At that point he realized that "if you wanted to change things you had to get your hands dirty."

Since then he has been in a state of gentle slide from a moral position towards a political one. He would like to change the name of CND to the Campaign for

Disarmament, because CND is not only opposed to nuclear weapons. But, like all institutions, CND is very conservative when it comes to changing its name.

Although no longer able to practise as a priest and now married (his wife, Valerie, is writing a thesis on the history of the Catholic peace movement), he is still a practising Catholic.

"I'm deeply committed to the idea that the gospel has a vision of the way people should live together, which is immensely relevant to this very moment. Whether I shall ever become a priest again in the functional sense, I don't know."

## We dial 081 for suburbia

On May 6 London will find its phone numbers split into two zones.

Alan Hamilton anticipates the angst

"SIMONE! Jocalast! Hasn't Mummy told you not to ring up Wayne and Sharon? You know perfectly well they're 081 people."

"But Mummy, they only live down the road."

"Yes darlings, but you've got to draw the line somewhere. You see, we live in nice Barnetbury among the chattering classes so we're 071 people. Wayne and Sharon live in, um, Holloway."

"Well, Mummy, can we play with Darren and Tracy?"

"Good heavens no, Darren and Tracy live in Hoxton. Their daddy reads the *Daily Star* and that nasty *Sunday Sport*."

"But Mummy, Darren and Tracy's new phone number starts with an 071."

"That's impossible, darlings. You see, 071 numbers are for nice, intelligent, successful people like you who live in inner London. To have an 081 number is frankly, well, suburban. If British Telecom really has put Hoxton among the 071s, I'll simply have to dash off a letter to the papers."

"Just look at Daddy — you remember Daddy, don't you? — going off to live in that house in Richmond. It's typical of the lackless no-good to shuck up in 081. That dreadful fancy woman of his has refused to move in with him, you know. It would mean giving up her Chelsea flat. And Chelsea, darlings, is definitely 071."

"It absolutely serves him right, he'll come crawling back home any day now. He'll soon

realize which side his phone is numbered on."

"And, darlings, did you hear that Irishman who came yesterday to fix the Jacuzzi? I mean, he was only a plumber, but now that they've gone and put Kilburn in with the 071s, you'd think he rode with the *Galway Blazers*."

"And he was so rude about his brother who owns that big international road-digging company; his brother lives up the road in Harlesden, you see, and you know what their numbers begin with."

"But Mummy, there's a boy in our class who says his grandma lives in a council flat in Poplar, and she's got an 071 number, and ever since then she's been telling everyone she lives in Docklands."

"Poplar, darlings? That's nearly in Essex! Now we don't go to Essex, do we? That's full of really 081 places like Chigwell and Dagenham. Taxi drivers live there. Taxi drivers, darlings, are not the class of person one would want to have an 071 number."

"But Mummy, why has that nice Mr Goldpman changed his address because of his telephone number? He had a big house in Golders Green."

"He still does, darlings, but because he lives in the very south of Golders Green he just scraped into the 071s. So now he tells everyone he lives in north Hampstead."

"Now do be quiet, darlings, the phone's ringing. It'll probably be Mummy's friend from the country. Poor dear, I don't know she can stand it in Shepherd's Bush."

## Rebel with no rock to roll

THE children of the older rock stars are now completing their public school education. Zowie Bowie has graduated from Gordonstoun and the children of Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones have also benefited from a traditional private education.

Most rock stars seem to be content with their children's development, but not so Dave Despicable, bass guitarist with Sixties rock supergroup, Dull Noise, whose 1971 concept triple album, *Into The Mystic Void*, sold a million copies in Holland alone. Dave has expressed grave disappointment with the final report on his son, Esmo, by the headmaster of St Swithin's public school near Reading.

"Dear Mr Despicable, 'It is with no small sense of failure that I bid your son Esmo farewell from St Swithin's after five years. For the past 12 months he has been a conscientious head prefect, combining this important post with captain of games and a highly successful keepership of our flourishing stamp club. With much regret, I am duty bound to report that, ever since his arrival, Esmo has shown remarkably little inclination for the rebelliousness you wished us to foster in him and, I dare say, his repeated insistence to our careers advisory panel that he wishes to be a tax inspector will come as something as a shock both to you and to his common-law mother, Miss Mercedes Chikadee.'

"Upon his arrival at St Swithin's all those years ago, Esmo revealed immediate signs of conformity, insisting that his name be altered on the official school list from Esmo Despicable to plain Desmond Able. When I pointed out that the staff and governors of St Swithin's might have to seek parental consent before complying with such a request,



Esmo brandished a pair of scissors and a bottle of shampoo and threatened to give his own hair a short-back-and-sides and a thorough wash if we did not immediately grant permission."

"Recalling how insistent you had been that his hair should remain as unkempt and greasy as possible, I responded by saying, 'Now

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CRAIG BROWN

your of the most anti-social type.

"Esmo's brush with the police at the end of his second year came as a bitter blow to the school. As I remember it, you had arrived at our annual school sports day, accompanied by a Miss Lollipop LeBonBon, and had been understandably appalled by the news vouchsafed by your son that, through sheer hard slog, he had achieved promotion to the lofty heights of head of dorm and form monitor, as well as gaining his Blue Badge for general attitude. You made it quite clear that you would be withdrawing Esmo from the school if his conduct did not deteriorate to a marked extent within the next school year. At this point, the local constabulary arrived, having been alerted by Esmo, a recent recruit to their local cadet force, to take yourself and Miss LeBonBon in for questioning concerning the 'cigarettes' you had so kindly offered me, at a very reasonable price, after the presentation of the cross-country cup."

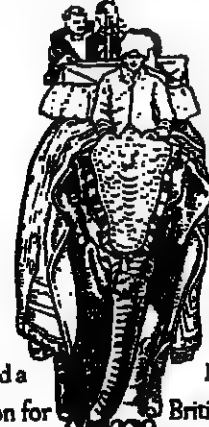
"During the past year, I realize the embarrassment caused you by newspaper reports of Esmo's success in A levels, coupled with constant sightings in a clean shirt. I have had a word with him about humming the national anthem in the corridors but, I fear, to little avail, and I regret to say his elocution lessons are coming on apace. We can only hope it is all but a phase."

Yours faithfully,

T. P. Hedges (Rev.)

"PS. Incidentally, Desmond has informed me that the Rolls-Royce motor vehicle discovered in the school swimming pool at the end of last term was deposited therein by you. On Desmond's instructions, I enclose the bill for its removal and I would be most grateful for immediate payment forthwith."

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## FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

## Ripples in the holy water

**14 APR 1990 ISRAEL**

The old priest swung open the great iron door, and stared at us in some surprise. We were, he said, almost the only visitors at Jacob's Well for two years. The *intifada*, he explained with a sigh: the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation. Jacob's Well, like many other holy places, is on the occupied West Bank, and sees few tourists nowadays. Only the foolhardy (and journalists, priests and United Nations aid workers) are willing to run the risk of getting caught in the crossfire of stones and plastic bullets which make up a West Bank riot.

Tourism in Israel is on the increase, after a two-year slump. With the *intifada* simmering into its third year, but not hitting the headlines so much, American and European visitors have started to come back to the Holy Land. For instance, more than 41,000 pilgrims and visitors are arriving in Israel this Easter, a third more than last year. But many of the holy sites, both Old Testament and New Testament, remain inaccessible. Tour guides have ways of avoiding them: this tomb or that shrine, they explain, is "temporarily" closed for repairs, or because of an Arab "demonstration".

Hence the solitude of Father Eustinos Mamalos, the lonely guardian of Jacob's Well. The well is in Nablus, the nerve-centre of the uprising and largest Arab town on the West Bank. It is also right opposite Balata refugee camp, one of the most militant Palestinian refugee camps and a frequent scene of confrontations between Israeli troops and stone-throwing Arab youths. In the Nablus kasbah, a rabbit warren of medieval alleyways, killings of Arab "collaborators" by extremist Arab youths are common, and some of the youngsters have taken to using guns as well as stones.

Father Mamalos, a Greek Orthodox monk, takes a philosophical view of the troubles, which he seems as the latest in a history of Holy Land strife stretching back thousands of years. Travellers and pilgrims have often had to contend with riots, brigands or officialdom. With the help

**The prospect of violence from the *intifada* means that some holy places are inaccessible to tourists this Easter, as Richard Owen discovers**

of a sole Arab employee, the old white-bearded priest continues to guard the well and the ruined church built over it, tending the monastic kitchen garden behind the high stone walls, an oasis of calm, contemplation and greenery which seems light years away from the dust, squalor and passion of the *intifada* outside.

**14 APR 1990 ISRAEL**

Unlike many sites in the Holy Land, the well has a strong claim to authenticity. It is almost certainly the one Jacob bought for 100 pieces of silver, after wrestling — according to Genesis — with the angel at the Jabbok ford. It is certainly the well described much later by St John in the New Testament, the one at which Jesus asked the woman of Samaria for a drink of water. No other well for miles around answers the description. St John's Gospel records how Jesus sat on the edge of the well on his way from Judea to Galilee, "being wearied with his journey", and started his teasing exchange: "Then the Samaritan woman said to him, how is it that thou, being a Jew, askest a drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, if thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, give me to drink, thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water."

The Samaritan woman's astonishment at finding a Jew in Schechem (Nablus) is testimony to the tensions which existed then, as now. Then, the conflict was between the Jews and the Samaritans, who had broken away from mainstream Judaism. Jesus knew he was entering hostile territory (he even sent James and John ahead as scouts). Nowadays, the Samaritans are a tiny sect.

The present conflict sets Muslims against Jews and sometimes Jews against Christians. "My predecessor here was murdered inside the church by Jewish extremists who think the site should be under Jewish, and not Christian, control," recalls Father Mamalos, rather coolly in the circumstances. He keeps no weapons for self-defence, but his Arab assistant has a pistol in a drawer just in case. Jewish settlers near Nablus also keep weapons — for defence against Arabs.

To while away the past two years, the monk — a trained icon painter — has painted the refectory windows with a magnificent series of colourful biblical scenes on glass which will no doubt one day become a tourist attraction in themselves. Now and then, just to make sure the well itself is still functioning after thousands of years, he winds up the bucket the 126ft to the top, and drinks the water before letting the bucket spin down again. It takes a while to hit the bottom. ("The well is deep," the Samaritan woman observed to Jesus.) Piles of bottles of holy water remain unsold.

The few descendants of the biblical Samaritans still live nearby, but the *intifada* has made it difficult to visit them, too. The Samaritans number 545 souls (an increase from 414 20 years ago), most in Nablus and some on the coast at Helon, near Tel Aviv. To the Jews, the Samaritans remain schismatics; they worship in a synagogue, use Hebrew scripture, and observe strict kosher rules, but speak Arabic as a daily language. They claim to be descendants of Levi, the son of Jacob, and believe that when the Israelites returned from Egypt the Jewish Temple was set up not in Jerusalem, but on Mount Geruzim, just outside Nablus. Mount Geruzim, they say, was the real site of Abraham's sacrifice of



Isaac, and it is still the place where Samaritan priests sacrifice lambs during Passover. Because of the *intifada*, Mount Geruzim — which offers spectacular views, to the Mediterranean one way and to the Jordan Valley the other, has become even more important to the Samaritans as a place of refuge.

Some holy places, unlike those in radical Nablus, have remained fully accessible, most notably those in "Israel proper" — that is, to say, the Israel formed in 1948, rather than in the contested territories of the West Bank and Gaza, occupied in 1967. Lake Galilee, where Christ gathered the disciples together ("I shall make you fishers of men") is in Israel, as is the Mount of Beatitudes above the lake. Also in Israel, and safe to visit, are Nazareth (although the Israeli Arabs who inhabit the town are growing more "political"), Cana nearby, and Mount Tabor, the presumed site of the Transfiguration ("He was transfigured before them, and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light").

Tourists are now returning to the holy sites in Jerusalem itself, above all the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Arab Christian quarter, built over the traditional site of Christ's crucifixion and burial. Other focal points for visitors include Muslim shrines such as the Golden Dome of the Rock, and Jewish holy places such as the Wailing Wall. Many Israelis are afraid to enter the Arab part of the Old City, because of anti-Jewish violence in its narrow

streets. Similarly, they shun the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane, just beyond the Old City walls across the Valley of Kidron, partly because the adjoining Arab villages are *intifada* "hot spots". But coachloads of Western tourists and pilgrims still visit these scenes of Christ's agony and ascension, and on the whole find the local Arabs more eager to sell them trinkets and freshly squeezed orange juice than cause them grievous bodily harm.

**14 APR 1990 ISRAEL**

It is on the West Bank that tourism has suffered most. The Tomb of Abraham at Hebron, like Jacob's Well at Nablus, sees comparatively few visitors nowadays, despite jolly, colourful and surreal brochures produced by the Jewish settlers which make no mention of their violent confrontations with local Arabs. Even Bethlehem, 10 minutes drive out of Jerusalem, has become a "sensitive" area because of the *intifada*, and tour guides check local conditions carefully before taking their charges to the Church of the Nativity, Manger Square, or nearby Shepherds' Square, where the coaches used to line up bumper to bumper, but where lonely Franciscan and Greek Orthodox priests now sit and wait for the occasional pilgrim.

The oddest West Bank holy place is the bend on the River Jordan, near Jericho, where Jesus

is said to have been baptized by John the Baptist. Surrounded by mines and barbed wire, it is only accessible once a year, under armed escort, for a religious service. Ever resourceful, tour operators have developed an "alternative" baptismal site, where the Jordan flows into Lake Galilee, safely inside "Israel proper".

If the Arab uprising continues, could more such "alternative" sites flourish? After all, the "tradition" which fixes the scene of this or that biblical event is already notoriously flexible. Few sites are as authentic as Jacob's Well.

The "Room of the Last Supper", or Cenacle, on Mount Zion in Jerusalem is a Crusader construction, with splendid Gothic arches to prove it. The Monastery of the Cross, on the place (then outside Jerusalem, now near the Knesset) where the tree used to make Christ's cross was supposedly cut down, was built in the 11th century. Some guides even like to point out the tree on which Judas Iscariot hanged himself after betraying Jesus, although the tree they pick varies each time.

But then, many of the holy places derive from an oral tradition which was given concrete form either by the Roman Emperor Constantine (who with his mother, the Empress Helena, fixed the sites of Christ's birth and death), or much later by the Crusaders. Some traditions go back only as far as the 19th

century: the "Garden Tomb", near the Damascus Gate in east Jerusalem, was for many years held by Anglicans to be Golgotha (Place of the Skull), because in 1833 the imaginative and romantic General Gordon noted that it not only had a skull-like appearance but lay "outside the city wall". Alas, the present massive city walls are 16th-century Ottoman creations.

Some find these uncertainties disturbing, and say that the disappointment they experience undermines belief. But Father Jerry Murphy O'Connor, Dominican priest, author of *The Holy Land* and the leading expert of biblical archaeology in Jerusalem, argues persuasively that those whose faith is shaky would lose it anyway, whereas those looking for spiritual refreshment rather than crude proof will come away strengthened. There is, Father Murphy O'Connor says, at best a "high degree of probability" that Christ's tomb does indeed lie under the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, for example. What matters, he argues, is faith: "The places have spiritual value simply because hundreds of thousands of people thought it worthwhile risking death over the centuries to pray at them." Some sites may be out of reach because of the *intifada*, but tourists and pilgrims will still want to visit the numerous other available holy places where they cannot only take photographs and buy postcards in safety, but also reflect on the roots of belief.

## FARMYARD DIARY

Paul Heiney

## Coming to life

THERE is a gradual re-awakening taking place on the farm, and it is nothing to do with the spring. I see it on the edge of the old mangers: dusty and dull when we first came, but now licked smooth and shiny by horses' lashing tongues. Cart-horses seem to know when work is coming; they will stand idly in their stalls until they hear the rattle of the approaching harness chains, then start to hunt for the final fortifying grain of food. It is the horse's equivalent of one for the road.

Around the fields our cart-tracks are already changing. Tractors leave two deep tyre-ruts behind them with a mound between, but the repeated plod of a heavily shod cart-horse wears away the ground down the middle of the track, leaving a shallow gully. Much easier for walking, and better for getting rid of rainwater, too. We shall appreciate it in the winter when muck has to be carted from the farmyard to the fields.

Gates and barn-doors that creaked with age have responded to regular exercise and groan no more; gutters, freed of 30 years' worth of rotting autumn leaves, now chuckle to themselves when the rain comes.

If you think of our farm as a rusty old machine, I feel we have at least given it the first drop of oil.

But something is not quite right, and it has taken me many miles of furrow-walking to realize exactly what it is. We do not have any gulls following the plough.

Now, gulls are to newly turned furrows what young girls are to pop groups: they scream. But no gulls follow me: it can't be just the mild weather.

The answer lies in the soil. Gulls do not follow the plough out of some desire to live up to a chocolate-box representation of the countryside. They do it for food. They swoop down, squabble and pluck fat, succulent worms whose world has been turned upside down by the plough. If you have no worms, you get no gulls. No worms mean dead soil, so gulls and living soil go together.

Some of our soil is very dead, and you can tell it from the colour. On smaller fields, old pastures where animals grazed and dinged

for years, the soil is richer and blacker and as nourishing as Christmas pudding. But where the earth has been beaten into submission by the combined assault of heavy machinery and chemical feeding, it just sits there disabled, waiting to be fed.

As I understand it, intensive agriculture feeds the growing plant by applying nourishment in chemical form; organic farming feeds the soil beneath, by applying farmyard manure or compost. The plant then feeds from the enriched soil, as naturally as a baby at its mother's breast.

A lot of modern farmers know that what they are doing to the soil is wrong, and resent having to do it: a neighbour told me that every few years he needs several more horsepower from his tractor to pull the same plough through the same fields. The soil is dying, giving up the struggle. He knows it, but he has to pay the bills: the economics of modern farming do not leave much room for charity.

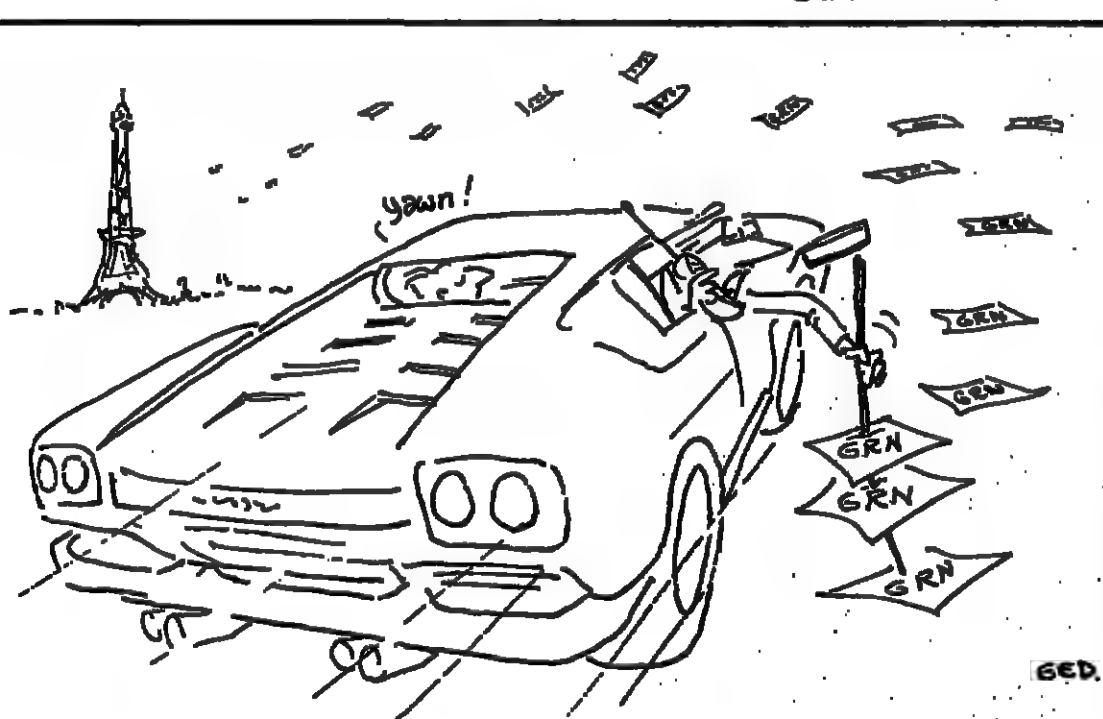
My present act of charity begins in a field where we are ploughing with a view to planting clover. Clover is a crop whose ability to fix invigorating nitrogen in the soil has made it the darling of the organic farming movement. If you follow a field of clover with a crop of corn, the corn won't need any

fertilizer. Or so the theory goes.

And there is further value in it: clover becomes sweet hay, best made by the gentle, unhurried movement of horse-drawn farm machinery. Modern haymaking gear grabs it, throws it, and shakes off the leaf where much of the goodness lies. In the gentle caress of our slow and solid pre-war machinery, leaf and stalk make their way to the haystack together.

And when the hay is taken, the clover is ploughed under to release its natural fertilizer, rotting and encouraging the precious worms to turn and aerate the soil.

If we have ploughed well and given the seed a good bed in which to lie, we shall have a good crop. But the tallest stalk of the finest hay would not be as sweet to me as the thought that next year, the gulls might find our furrows worthy of their attention. We need their seal of approval.



## A week's shadow play

Last week, I was an accountant. Not a work-all-day, study-all-night sort of accountant, more of a big office, fast car, expensive lunch sort of accountant. Perhaps you could handle a bit of this yourself.

It is called workshadowing, and involves following a senior person around for a week, watching them work. In my case, Nigel Llewellyn at Touche Ross. Nigel spent many years working hard at Touche, passing his exams (first time, of course) and climbing all the way up the promotion ladder to the exalted position of partner. He sees a lot of complicated cases, meets a lot of powerful people and spends a lot of time on the telephone to Paris.

For a week, I met everyone he met, read every document he read and eavesdropped on all his calls (although I don't speak French). The main story involved a company which was bought by a rival. When you or I sell something, we say: "You can have it for a fiver." What these guys tend to say is: "You can have it for its valuation as determined by an audit after you take control, plus a few million for the existing customers." Of course, when the audit is done, the two sides disagree on the odd million here and there; so you have one side accusing the other of showing a little initiative on the accounting side, and the other side saying they're honest and can prove it, and "how dare you?" This kind of mess keeps accountants and lawyers in the style to which they are accustomed.

**Rob Findlay goes workshadowing, and finds the life of a top City accountant is not for him**

I spent ages ploughing through paperwork on this sort of deal, so for a bit of variety I popped down the next day to see the annual audit being done for a different client. Believe it or not, some people love to spend the most creative years of their lives chasing bits of paper, haggling over how the stock was counted and checking goods-received notes (predictably referred to as GRNs) against invoices. That was my vision of accounting before workshadowing, and it still is now. Each to their own. When I told Nigel what a boring day I'd had, he said I was only the third person he had ever knowingly put off audit. That night I dreamt of creepy workshadows murdering breathily: "Oh yes, Nigel, it was simply wonderful. Audit really is my life..."

On Thursday, we went to see an out-of-town client, and I had the fascinating opportunity to shadow a partner in the act of visiting the hairdresser. He had been sinking back to his hippy roots, encouraged by his wife, I think, and

had sunk so far that he even had to borrow a tennor from me to pay for the haircut. The day degenerated further when it turned out that our client was a school. Green teapots and a strong smell of boy summoned up ghosts of my own schooldays. I remembered seeing meetings like the one I attended, with the headmaster, governors and accountants sitting around a large table. I had believed they were talking earnestly and wisely about matters great and good: another cherished myth exploded.

To round the week off, the final afternoon was a high-level meeting with another client's finance director and senior accountant. It was inspiring to watch the tactics and strategy being planned for a forthcoming eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with a commercial partner. Figures and evidence were produced and discussed in calm, assertive voices. Nigel's smooth, professional manner remained intact, despite the fact that his fountain pen was leaking a massive ink stain all down his shirt front. The Equity card is in the post.

What I did not see, and did not miss, was the arrogant yuppie image so often attached to accountancy. Instead, I found a friendly, supportive and constructively critical environment. I liked the environment, but I felt that the job was not for me. As Nigel said, it is better to find that out now, not after joining as an accountant.

If you want to try workshadowing, contact your Student Industrial Society or Careers Service.

Rob Findlay is a postgraduate student at Jesus College, Cambridge.

## CAMPUS

## Ripe for reform

Last week's National Union of Students conference underlined the problems with its present structure — but there is hope

From Jonathan Murphy, Westfield College, University of London

STEPHEN Twigg, the new president of the National Union of Students, faces a problematical 12 months attempting to devise a united campaign on issues such as education and housing, while withstanding the pressure of allegations that the student union movement is undemocratic.

In its efforts to portray itself as a democratic organization, NUS was again hijacked at conference by too many pressure groups fighting for single issues. It is not surprising to hear people complain of the unrepresentative nature of the union. In trying to represent the masses, it falls into the trap of being dominated by factions.

But there are glimmers of hope. Anyone looking for reassurance on reforms should have confidence in Stephen Twigg. He has stated that restructuring will be one of the future priorities. It is a triumph that reform should even be discussed at conference in the face of hard-left bullying. The debate featured progressive ideas, such as trimming down numbers on the executive body. The encouragement of regional autonomy would make the union more answerable to its students.

The Tory Reform Group would be better served by allying itself with the soft left, rather than bleating about double dealing and conspiracy. I doubt whether the coming year will bring many more attempts at disaffiliation since, apart from Southampton, these referendums merely provide NUS with a vote of confidence.

From Matthew Turnaine, vice-chair, Birmingham University Conservative Association/CCF

IN THE article "Left trots back at Blackpool" (April 7), much was left unsaid. I attended the NUS conference, elected as a Conservative at my university. I shall not be going back next time.

NUS is dominated by the hard left. This is unrepresentative of students in general. An indication of this is that at Birmingham only one candidate standing on a political platform was elected on first preference votes: myself. Labour came last.

I believe it is important that people are aware of the views held by NUS. At Blackpool some of these views were that market

forces had caused the King's Cross disaster, that NUS had brought down the Old Regime in Romania and that the media had lied about the poll tax riots and followed the Conservative Party line.

Delegates at the conference were intimidated. Attempts to express a moderate opinion were often attacked. For example, one delegate stated that some people were not prepared to face the legal consequences of not paying the poll tax. He was shouted off the stage.

Disaffiliation campaigns should be encouraged even though they are difficult to win. We had one at Birmingham recently. The first reason why it was defeated is that most students are unaware of what NUS is really like. This causes them to believe that NUS must be good for students. Second, NUS pumps thousands of pounds into fighting disaffiliation attempts. When will the Government end this closed shop? Soon, please.

From Timothy Hales, student chairman, Tory Reform Group

I have read recent Campus columns (March 31, April 7) with interest, particularly Alex Allen's comments that "Conservative student activists tend to be on the Thatcherite wing of the Party".

Conservative students involved in the moderate Tory Reform Group will find such claims as offensive as they are inaccurate. The majority of Conservative voters on campus do not support such ludicrous notions as privatization of the judiciary or the destruction of student organizations through voluntary membership.

It is precisely because the Conservative Collegiate Forum is a stamping ground for the loony right that the Tory Party on campus is equated in student perception with the extremists of the hard left.

From Bertram O'Dwyer, York University

The suggestion of reform of the CCF to change its character and reduce its influence (March 31) shows one-nation Conservatism for what they are: wet and devoid of original thought. GCF is not without its problems — but the Tory Reform Group is not one of them. As long as we bring new ideas to the country on how to extend individual freedom and fight socialism, CCF will remain the voice of mainstream Conservative students.

On the



## EASTER EVENTS

From traditional parades to kite flying and jousting — Judy Froshaug picks the best of the Easter treats to be found around the country

## Hunting for excitement

**EASTER PARADE:** Best-known parade in Britain — 77 floats, marching bands, cheerleaders, fun-fair, jazz and children's theatre. Battersea Park, London SW11. Tomorrow, Easter Sunday, from 12.30pm, parade from 3pm. Free.

**INTERNATIONAL MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION:** Specialized model railway exhibition — 130 stands, record number of layouts, models, kits and tools. Complimentary bus service from Victoria Station. £2.50 ticket with valid British Rail ticket.

**ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY:** Halls, Westminster, London SW1. Today, tomorrow, Mon, 10.30am-6pm; Tues, Wed, 10.30am-8pm; Thurs, 10.30am-5pm. Adult £5, child five-15 £3, family ticket (two adults and two children) £15.

**EASTER AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM:** Giant Easter egg plus egg-making workshops, bubble and papermaking demonstrations, radio room workshop. Also "Food for Thought" demonstrations, question and answer sessions, recipe sheets. Also "Art and Science of Lego" exhibition, and drama presentations relating to some of the museum's most historic exhibits.

**SCIENCE MUSEUM:** Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London SW7 (01-838 8000). Today, Mon, 10am-5pm; tomorrow, 11am-5pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

**HARNESS HORSE PARADE:** Annual outing for heavy horses. Veterinary inspections from 9.30am, followed by judging of classes and grand parade of winners from noon to 1pm. Regent's Park, Inner Circle, London NW1. Mon, Free.

**EASTER FAMILY ACTIVITIES AT THE HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES:** Three on Monday: at Kensington Palace State Apartments, London W8 (01-837 8561), New Palace, New Palace, London W1 (01-840 3321), and at Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey (01-877 8441). Easter egg hunts at all venues, 10.30am-12.30pm and 2-4pm. Tues, same times at Hampton Court, boats and bridges trail, followed by a coat of arms workshop. Places for this limited on first come, first served basis. Meet Buttery Kitchens. All events 50p on top of normal admission.

**EASTER IN COVENT GARDEN:** Today, noon to 5pm; games and workshops for children with the Easter Bunny, plus "Help a London Child" grand charity auction with the Capital Radio cruiser and show business stars, 1-4pm. Tomorrow, 2-4pm, take your own eggs for painting competition, 2-4pm. Easter bunny competition — materials provided — followed by an Easter bunny parade and charity auction of a giant Easter egg. Covent Garden, London WC2.

**WEST SONGS EASTER FESTIVAL:** Alternative arts presentation with music, Morris dancers, puppeteers and street entertainers — including clowns, stilt walkers and unicyclists. Camley Street and environs, London W1. Mon, 11am-5pm. Free.

"FIFTY years ago, Easter was a fine time for children, not quite as splendid as Christmas, but fine all the same, with boiled eggs coloured with cochineal for breakfast, chocolate eggs hidden in the garden and wonderful presents from adoring friends and relatives."

So wrote Elizabeth Goudge in a children's story, "The Easter Bunny", which appeared in *The Modern Girl Book for Children* published by Oodams in 1948. Times have not changed much. This year there are Easter egg hunts up and down the country, some of which are listed below. In parks, gardens and castle grounds, the search for hidden eggs provides a double benefit for parents — keeping restless young legs on the move with a promise of a treat at the end of the exercise.

Other traditional Easter outings include journeys at most steam railways, family entertainments in stately homes, museums, castles and country parks and seasonal openings of many country museums and farms. Many museums and arts centres will be providing workshops, talks and walks throughout the coming weeks. Local Press and radio and the places themselves should be able to supply details.

**EASTER WEEKEND WALKS IN LONDON:** Today, Reformation London — the Rise of the Protestant Cause; tomorrow, Thomas à Becket's London; Monday, When's Churches — rebuilding 17th-century London. Booking: Clitights (01-806 4325).

**SPRING CRAFT FAIR:** 150 craftsmen and women with demonstrations, entertainment, saleroom displays and Punch and Judy shows. Licensed bar and refreshments. Fun-fair in grounds and excellent garden centre adjacent. Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London N22. Today, tomorrow, Mon, 10.30am-5.30pm. Adult £3, child £1.50.

**LONDON ANTIQUES FAIR:** Large Easter fair with more than 200 exhibitors. Two main sections: one for the serious collector, with items to 1900, and one with smaller, less expensive items to 1930. Bar, refreshments and car-park. Wembley Exhibition Hall, Wembley, north London. Today, tomorrow, 11am-7pm; Mon, 11am-3pm. Adult £2, accompanied child under 14 free.

**BLACKHEATH EASTER KITE FESTIVAL:** With the right breeze, the sky should be filled with hundreds of kites — fighting, stunt, teams. Trade stall and competitions. Take your own kite or just go along and watch. Blackheath, London SE3. Tomorrow, Mon, 10am-5pm. Free.



Pearls of the parade: capture the carnival atmosphere in Battersea Park tomorrow, with floats, a fun-fair, bands and cheerleaders

**EASTER RUNT:** Join the friendly Hush House Harriers in the Commons Run — jolly, healthy and non-competitive. Ealing Common. Meet Ealing Common Underground station, Uxbridge Road, London W5. Today, 11am.

**PUPPETS WORLD-WIDE:** Programme of films, performances and workshops relating to the puppets in the museum and in other countries. Also an art workshop — sock puppets — 11am-12.30pm and 2-4pm today. Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 (01-980 3204). Mon-Thurs and Sat, 10am-5.50pm; Sun 2.30-5.50pm. Free.

## OUT OF TOWN

**THE GREAT KILVERSTONE EASTER EGGS TRAVAGANZA:** The park is home to more than 600 animals — many belonging to species under threat in Latin and Central America. Proceeds from the Easter egg hunt to the park's charitable trust and the West Suffolk Wildlife Park, near Thetford, Norfolk. Tomorrow, Mon, 10am-5pm. Adult £3, child 10p-14 £2, under-4s free.

**EASTER ANTIQUES FAIR AND ART EXHIBITION:** Annual fair held in the town hall and Spread Eagle Hotel (the historic coaching inn once owned by John Fothergill). Lunches available. Theme, Oxfordshire. Today 10am-5pm.

**JOUSTING TOURNAMENT:** Penultimate chance to see the Jousting Association at Chatham before it moves to its new home at Tapeley Park. Grounds open 11am, tournament from 2pm. Also falconry displays, licensed restaurant, free parking. Chatham Castle, near Canterbury, Kent (0227 730704). Tomorrow, Mon, Adult £4.50, child £2. Every third child admitted free.

**EASTER STEAM-UP AT DIDCOT:** Trains in steam throughout the weekend, behind-the-scenes tours daily, noon-2.30pm. Easter egg hunt for children tomorrow, 2pm. Didcot Railway Centre, Didcot, Oxfordshire (0235 817 200). Today, tomorrow, Mon, 11am-5pm. Admission today, adult £3, child £2.20; tomorrow and Mon, adult £5.50, child £2.30.

**VICTORIAN EASTER AT MANOR FARM:** Traditional customs and festivities at the farm museum. Simnel cake, hot cross buns and other Easter food in the old kitchen. Plus blacksmith and wheelwright at work, rare breeds of farm animals, sheep with new-born lambs, and a shire horse. Tractor and pony rides around the farm. Manor Farm, Upper Hamble Country Park, Bursledon, Hampshire (0489 787055). Today, tomorrow, Mon, 10am-5.30pm. Adult £1.50, child 80p. Family ticket (two adults plus up to three children) £4, parking £1.

**EASTER AT THE WILD FOWL TRUST:** Easter egg hunt every day with special prizes, plus an opportunity to see many birds getting ready to, or having already laid or hatched real eggs. Tomorrow and Mon, family days including outside activities. Wild Fowl at Wetlands Trust, Arundel, West Sussex (0903 883355). Today, tomorrow, Mon, 9.30am-5.30pm. Adult £2.70, child £1.70, plus 20p for egg hunt.

**ZIPPO'S FAMILY CIRCUS:** Victorian-themed "human" circus at Bodelwyddan. The troupe presents one of the only non-animal touring shows in the country. Bodelwyddan Castle, Bodelwyddan, Clwyd, Wales. Box office (08745 584 080). Tomorrow, Mon, Tues, 1.30pm and 4pm. Adult £2, child £1.50, family ticket (two adults plus three children) £5.80.

**THE CHILDREN'S FARM:** Opening for the season tomorrow, the 600-acre mixed working farm, for children, a rabbit village, miniature ponies and donkeys and a puppet theatre. For adults, woodland trails, coarse fishing and working blacksmith. For all, a tractor train and treasure hunt with metal detectors. Great Kneble Farm, Beckley, Kent (01793 726 250). Tomorrow, Mon and then Sun to Fri (closed Sat). Daily 10.30am-5.30pm, last admission 4.30pm. Adult £3, child £2.50. Admission including treasure hunt, £5.

**EDINBURGH PUPPET FESTIVAL:** Leading puppet companies perform at local venues in and around Edinburgh at one of the largest puppet festivals in Britain. Shows for all ages. Edinburgh. Main venue and further information see Netherbow Arts Centre, 43 High Street, Edinburgh (031 558 9579). Today until April 21.

**CRAFTS ON THE FAIRME:** Many young animals to be seen, a working display of the role of the horse on a country estate plus a wide range of crafts, demonstrations and sales. Family entertainments, Morris dancers, working steam engines, local produce, refreshments and full licensed bar. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire. Today, tomorrow, Mon, 10.30am-4.30pm. Adult £1.10, child 50p, car-park £1.30.

**OPEN AIR EASTER MUSEUM WEEKEND:** Demonstrations of hurdle and spar-making, spinning, blacksmithing and milling plus small exhibitions by Taste of Sussex — opportunity to sample and buy local produce. All historic buildings open as usual. Light refreshments. Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, near Chichester, West Sussex (0243 83348). Today, tomorrow, Mon, 11am-5pm. Adult £2.80, child £1.25, family ticket (two adults plus two children) £7.50.

**DOLL AT LEIGHTON BUZZARD RAILWAY:** The restored steam engine, Doll, built in 1919, hauls its first public passenger train through and around the historic town tomorrow. Many outings in the area, including combined railway and canal trips. Leighton Buzzard Railway, Billington Road, Bedfordshire (0525 373888). Tomorrow, Mon, trains from 11am. Adult £2.80, child £1.40.

**LEEDS CASTLE EASTER EGG HUNT:** 5,000 small eggs hidden in the grounds daily, with silver and gold eggs winning prizes. Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent (0822 785400). Today, tomorrow, Mon, Castle open from 11am, egg hunts 2-3pm. Admission to castle and grounds, adult £3.70, child £2.20.

**JOUSTING AT KNEBETHWORTH:** Medieval entertainment with the Knights of Royal England, tomorrow and Mon. House, gardens, park and adventure playground open throughout. Knebworth House, Knebworth, Hertfordshire (0438 812661). Tomorrow, Mon, 11am-5.30pm. Jousts 2pm and 3.30pm. Adult £3.50, child £3.

**OTTER TRUST:** More than 50 otters in enclosures in near-natural conditions. Riverside walks, picnic areas, heronry, wildfowl lakes. Earsham, near Bungay, Suffolk (0868 893470). Daily, 10.30am-6pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

**WORKING WINDMILLS:** There are numerous windmills in East Anglia restored to working order. Good examples are Barney Arms Mill, Norfolk (6m S of Acle off B1140 road). Daily, 10am-5pm; Sutton Windmill, Norfolk (1m SW of Stalham on A149), the tallest mill in the country with new 73ft sails being made. Sun, Mon, 1.30-5.30pm; Thorpe Ness Windmill, Suffolk (2m N of Aldeburgh), Mon 2-5pm.

## EXHIBITIONS

**BIG PICTURES:** Two-part show of large First World War paintings from the museum's collection originally commissioned for the "Hall of Remembrance" which was never built. Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 (01-735 8922). Daily, 10am-6pm.

**KINGS IN CONFLICT:** Power games in Ireland between James II and William of Orange, 1689-1702, set against a Europe dominated by Louis XIV. Major show, loans from France and the Netherlands. Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast (0232 361251). Sat, Sun, 1-6pm; Mon, 10am-6pm. Adults £2, concessions and children under 18 £1.

**HORSEY:** Discover the army horse in Chelsea. Week of off-beat events from today: competitions, prizes. Come face to face with Marengo, skeleton of Napoleon's horse. National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 (01-730 0717). Sat, 10am-5.30pm; Sun, Mon, 2-5.30pm. Free, car-park.

● Gardens to visit, page 41

## MOTORING CHALLENGE

## On the road to recovery

The Peking to London convoy has completed its first week at the wheel — without too many hitches. Graham Rock reports

The most welcome sight outside the Yugoslavia Hotel, Belgrade, on Thursday morning was the 1907 Simplex Speedster, the oldest car to start in the London to Peking Motoring Challenge.

On Tuesday evening, reports arrived that the Simplex had broken down in Austria, just short of the Yugoslav border. Spares and tyres were flown to Belgrade, and the bright red vintage car has been restored to health.

The Simplex offers its passengers no cover. Each morning the crew members don leather gear from head to toe, adjust their goggles, and look for all the world as though they are about to take to the air and give the Red Baron a drubbing.

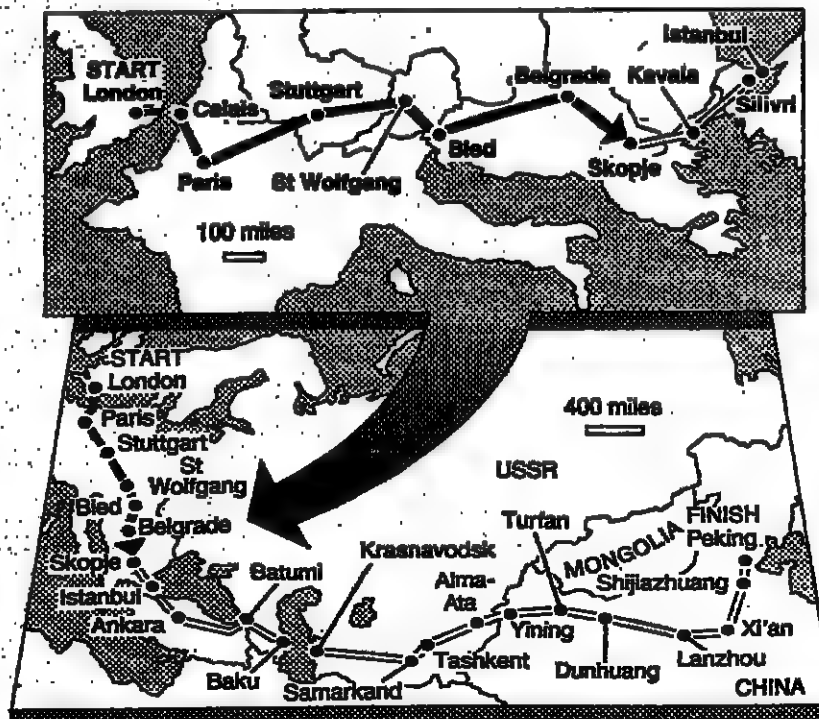
The first casualty of the challenge came just two hours after the convoy left London last Saturday, when the 1929 Bentley objected to the stress of 70 miles an hour, and expired in clouds of steam and smoke on the A2, less than half-way to Dover. The RAC recovered the vehicle, and the driver returned home, collected a Ford Sierra, and had caught up by the time the majority had reached Germany.

The proceedings from Marble Arch went as planned, including a stop at 10 Downing Street to receive a letter of encouragement. To some extent the departure was dominated by the crew from Citilink, which set off in a bus bearing the green and yellow company colours. It was accompanied by outsiders wearing matching uniform and, as the group roared off down Whitehall, it palpably upstaged some of the other candidates.

The Citilink team does not intend to rough it: the Mallard bus is fitted out with an abundance of creature comforts, including a shower, a fridge and a microwave oven, not to mention a substantial supply of familiar domestic necessities, should the fare on offer later in the trip prove less than palatable.

From Paris, the challengers were allowed to make their own way to Istanbul, but more than half opted for the chosen route, which goes through Stuttgart, St Wolfgang, Belgrade, Skopje, Kavala and Silivri, a few miles from the Bosphorus.

With cars spread throughout Europe, it has been difficult to chart the progress



of all, but it seems unlikely there will be any casualties before the group sets out through Turkey next week.

Colin Barrington and Graham Gleeson, from the West Country, were late out of Calais on their 1939 BSA and sidcar with a broken cable. Like the Simplex team, they arrived in the evening with cheeks the colour of raspberries.

If the mechanical problems have been few, one couple gave organizer Voyages Jules Verne a severe headache by arriving at Stuttgart without their passports, having left them in the Paris Hilton and then driven through an unmanned customs station at the German border.

Telephones rang, telecs chattered, faxes whirled. A member of Jules Verne's staff took the documents to London, and another flew to Munich Airport to hand them over to their repentant owners.

The Mercedes has performed impeccably, as one might expect. Sweeping along the autobahns, it is in its element, but the top speed of 137mph proved beyond reach. It might have been the strong headwinds, or the load we were carrying, but at 125mph the glare from the whites of my knuckles was blinding, and further acceleration seemed reckless.

Already we have become masters of attending receptions. These are scheduled to last at least half an hour, usually

before dinner, so the optimum time to turn up is 15 minutes after the start.

One drink can be made to last the remaining duration: there are the ubiquitous television cameras and lights affording a spurious and brief fame, the official speeches, and then the self-conscious sidling away to dinner at the earliest decent opportunity.

Champagne was on offer at Reims, en route from Paris to Stuttgart, and again at the Weisses. Rossi hotel in St Wolfgang, Austria. *White Horse Inn* was filmed in this ornate village, although when 20 or so of the motoring challengers blocked the town square, the language of a few local delivery drivers seemed a little out of harmony with the romance of the film.

That reaction was rare. Everywhere the group has been spoiled with hospitality, including at the Post Hotel, Aschheim, near Munich, where we were given a typical Bavarian breakfast, two white sausages, sweet mustard, pretzels and beer. It was not a patch on the plateful served up in the Little Chef near Gravesend, though.

The only official engagement we missed was the tour of the Audi factory and car museum on Monday afternoon. I could say that our absence was in deference to Mercedes, which has lent us a 300SE for the journey, but the truth was that we had a more pressing engagement at Munich airport.

## What goes cheap, cheap at Easter?

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## THE TIMES COOK

Lamb is a traditional favourite at this time of year. Frances Bissell suggests some ways to give zest to an Easter feast

Lamb has always been associated with springtime in a culinary and a symbolic sense. It is featured in ancient Chinese spring rituals, as well as the Jewish Passover and Christian, Greek and Russian Orthodox Easter festivals. Lamb for Easter is one of those culinary traditions which still seems to be holding strong, judging by the amount of it available in the shops. Asda is selling new season's lamb from the Dorset breed, which is tender and full of flavour. Marks & Spencer has fresh, not chilled or frozen, New Zealand lamb which is very good too.

Mediterranean flavours are the ones which immediately spring to mind as the appropriate partners for lamb—garlic, lemon, rosemary, olives, olive oil, tomatoes. But it is more versatile than that. Lamb is excellent served with tender young vegetables and new potatoes, or with a bowl of fagoleto or white beans, or, indeed, lentils.

Although usually roasted, there are other ways of cooking a leg of lamb. I have decided to poach the lamb, and serve it not with Mediterranean trimmings, but some good old-fashioned English sauces. I have discovered that my fish kettle will just hold a stirmish whole leg of lamb; otherwise I would have to divide it into shank and fillet cut, and cook them separately.

The idea for lemon-flavoured pasta came from Andrew Cavatini, who makes all the fresh pasta in our local deli in north London. Some days he makes smoked salmon ravioli. One day I saw him making lemon tagliatelle. Making pasta at home is an enjoyable pastime if you have the space, the inclination and, of course, the time. It is not as quick as opening up a packet of spaghetti, but it does not actually take as much time as you might think. I would allow an hour or so. Once mastered, it opens up a whole range of new ideas for making coloured and flavoured pasta, using saffron, beetroot, tomato, spinach, squid ink, herbs, spices, coleslaw, for example. And then there are all the infinite varieties of fillings for ravioli and tortelloni, which means you are not restricted to the usual spinach and ricotta. Try blue cheese and walnuts, smoked salmon and cream, scallion roe, crabmeat and chicken with herbs. But first try this wonderfully flavoured pasta.

## Home-made lemon pasta

(Serves 4)

10oz/280g strong white flour

4oz/110g fine semolina

2tsp lemon oil or 1tsp finely grated lemon zest

4 eggs

## A time for tenderness

DIANA LEADBETTER



Make the dough either by hand or in a food processor. For the first method, heap up the dry ingredients and make a well in the top. Slide in the eggs and lemon oil or zest, and work in the flour gradually with the fingertips until thoroughly mixed. Knead to a smooth dough, working on a floured board.

If using a food processor, simply put all the ingredients in the bowl and process, in short bursts, for 30 seconds or so. The texture will be crumbly but soft. Scoop it all together, and form it into a ball. Cover with clingfilm, and let it rest in a cool place for 15 minutes.

Cut off a piece of dough about the size of an egg, and roll it out as thinly as possible, about the thickness of a 20p piece. If using a pasta

machine that rolls and cuts, put the rolled piece to one side while you roll out the rest of the pasta. By now the first piece of rolled pasta will be dry enough for you to feed through the cutter; hang the strands up or loosely cut them into nests until you are ready to cook the pasta.

This is such a delicately flavoured pasta that the simplest sauce will be the best. I would heat some extra virgin olive oil with a little crushed garlic, some halved, stoned Nicosia olives, and stir this into the cooked pasta with plenty of fresh shredded basil.

If you really do not feel like making your own pasta, the lemon flavour can still be achieved by heating the lemon zest or oil with the above ingredients and stirring it into cooked pasta.

Poached leg of lamb (Serves 6 to 8)  
4lb/1.80kg leg of lamb  
2 bay leaves  
1 onion, stuck with half a dozen cloves  
parsley stalks  
1 carrot, peeled and sliced  
1 small turnip, peeled and sliced  
1 leek, washed and sliced  
1 celery stalk  
salt and pepper

Trim and tie the leg of lamb to hold its shape. Fill a large saucepan with water, and add the seasonings. Bring to the boil, and put in the leg of lamb. When the water comes back to the boil, turn the heat down to the lowest possible simmer, and poach for one hour (15 minutes per lb). Remove

the lamb from the pot, and put it to rest in a warm place for 10 to 15 minutes before carving.

There are many ways of embellishing this simple dish with sauces and garnishes. One I like very much is caper sauce, which can be made as an old-fashioned roux of flour and butter moistened with the lamb juices and a little thin cream, into which you stir two or three tablespoons of capers.

Laver sauce is a traditional accompaniment to lamb in Wales — its rich iodine flavour and dark silky textures make a wonderful contrast with the meat. Laver is usually sold ready cooked. To make a simple sauce, heat about half a pound of laver with a knob or two of butter and a pint of lamb stock and season to taste. Onion sauce goes well with lamb, whether roasted or poached. To

make it, chop the onions coarsely, cover with milk, and add a bay leaf and two cloves. Simmer until the onions are tender, and then rub through a sieve and mix with some soft white breadcrumbs and, if necessary, a little more hot milk. Season the sauce with a little nutmeg if you like.

Leftover lamb  
Stuffed vegetables are a tasty way of using up good quality leftovers and provide an alternative to moussaka or shepherd's pie. I like to mix the cooked meat with bulgour wheat instead of rice for a change.

## Stuffed baked vegetables

(Serves 4)

1/2lb/230g cooked lamb, minced or diced

1/2lb/340g cooked bulgour wheat

2oz/60g finely chopped onion

2oz/60g lightly toasted pine nuts or flaked almonds

2oz/60g raisins or chopped apricots, optional

finely chopped fresh mint to taste

good pinch ground coriander

salt and pepper

1 to 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Mix the ingredients together, and spoon into your chosen hollowed vegetable. Place in an oiled roasting tin or ovenproof dish, cover with foil to prevent it burning, and cook in the top half of the oven at 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4 until the vegetables are tender.

A couple of years ago, I gave a recipe for an extremely mouth-puckering lemony pie — the Shaker lemon pie. Today's is a much gentler version, but the Shakers would probably disown it. You can use the zestless lemons you'll have left over from the pasta dish.

## Lemon tart

(Serves 6; prepare the lemons the day before required)

3 or 4 thin-skinned lemons, about 1/2lb/340g weight

6oz/170g sugar

4 eggs

7oz/200g short pastry

Peel the lemons, removing as much pith as possible. Slice them thinly, and remove the pips. Cover with sugar, and leave overnight. When ready to bake the pie, drain the lemony syrup into a bowl, and beat in the eggs. Line a 9in/23cm tart tin or quiche dish with the pastry, and bake blind for 12 minutes. Arrange the lemon slices in the pastry, and pour the egg mixture over them. Bake at 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4 for about 30 minutes or until the filling has set.

(© Times Newspapers Ltd 1990)

● *Cookery at the Grange* (037 384 4579) "Basics to Barmale" is a four-week course for £920, not a full week's course as stated on March 31.

## DRINK

Chocolate eggs, hot cross buns, Beaujolais... Jane MacQuitty on Easter essentials

## Just a storm in a wine glass?

THERE have been periodic scares concerning potentially harmful additives and chemicals used in wine production during the past decade (Jane MacQuitty writes). The wine industry will always harbour the odd producer who, by dint of the quick winemaking route, may endanger his customers. There is also a desperate need for an internationally accepted wine additives standard.

The latest wine additive scare concerns wines exported to the US that have been found to contain traces of the Japanese fungicide procymidone, produced by the Sumitomo Chemical Company. This fungicide has been widely used in Europe since 1977 to combat botrytis, mildew and other moulds with no apparent ill-effect.

The EC currently allows up to five parts per million of procymidone in wine, while the US insists on a procymidone level of only 0.02 parts per million. America's consumer watchdog, the Food and Drug Administration, has found procymidone before in foodstuffs. A FDA spokesman explained to me that wines entering the US are checked at random for illegal additives by the "Luk procedure method", which can detect about 150 different pesticides. This is how 11 wines with minimum procymidone levels of between 0.03 and 0.05 were discovered.

The FDA admits that "From the consumer standpoint this may be a lot of to-do about nothing, but we have to do this to assure ourselves and the American public that there is no major problem."

Cynics may say that this is a protectionist attitude, with the Americans hitting back after the EC ban on beef from cattle given growth hormones, safe in the knowledge that the warmer American climate has no need for fungicides such as procymidone.

This also explains why Beaujolais and Asti Spumante are the chief procymidone offenders, healthy grapes with whole skins, free from moulds, are preferred for both wines. In order to produce these perfect grapes, French and Italian growers may well have been heavy-handed with their procymidone spraying programmes. With two briefing meetings held recently between EC representatives and the FDA, there is still uncertainty as to whether a full blockade on French and Italian wines is in force. Some large wine exporters to the US are already analysing the procymidone levels of their wines before shipment, as requested by the FDA, and are holding back any that do not meet the requirements. This is costly and time-consuming, but it looks as if it is the only solution to the procymidone problem.

Large French wine merchants, such as Georges Dubouche of Beaujolais, already have the necessary procymidone-testing equipment in their own laboratories, but smaller concerns and growers will have to join the queue at their nearest local laboratory for the vital procymidone-free certificate. The delays could throw the French and Italian wine export industries into chaos.

## NEXT SATURDAY

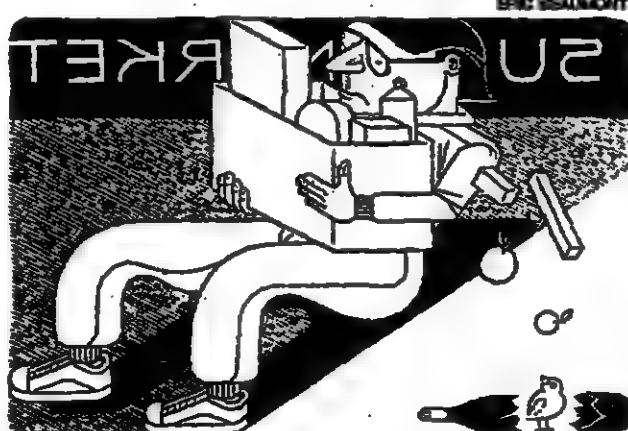
Spring into summer with the second *Times* wine offer, selected by Jane MacQuitty. The case features a range of white, red and rosé wines, on sale exclusively to *Times* readers for £39.50

## A Wine Cellar? But I haven't even got a cellar...

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## Coming out of its shell



The Georges Dubouche '89 Beaujolais wines are just being shipped to the UK, and last week I tasted 10 of the cru wines. The best was the '89 Morgon (£5.89), whose firm, full, blackberry and raspberry-like fruit was delicious. Next in line was a handsome '89 Chénas, Domaine de la Combe Remont (£5.35), whose rich, full, beefy palate had plenty of ripe Gamay fruit. Almost as good is the softer black fruit of the '89 Dubouche Juliénas (£5.23), and the flowery-fruity '89 Saint Amour, Domaine du Paradis (£7.18). For the moment these wines are only available from Beckmann Wine Cellars, 12 Brewery Road, London N7, but expect them on your high street shelves soon.

Despite the economic difficulties experienced by Britain's wine buyers that I mentioned last week, wine businesses are opening up all the time. The latest is Neville Bloch of the Wine Treasury, better known as the proprietor of the Mijanou restaurant in Fimbo, south London. The Wine Treasury's list includes a selection of Bordeaux and Burgundy, but there are also wines from Italy, the Antipodes and California. At a recent tasting of the Treasury's wines, I thought the finest was an '87 Pinot Noir (£19.04, available in May) from a Sonoma winery in California that I had not heard of before. Williams Selyem is run by Burt Williams and Ed Selyem, whose winery is, apparently, a garage, and the farmsteads are second-hand milk tanks. There is little of this stunningly pure Pinot Noir available, with its scent of roses backed up by a moreish, rich palate and luscious, plummy fruit. Alternatively, you could

try a fine Treasury red Burgundy, the '86 Pommard, Les Saucilles from Jean-Marc Boillot (£14.95). The character of this wine is richer and beefier than the California '87, but is just as delectable.

White wine drinkers need not feel left out, as the Treasury has some excellent white Burgundies. The '88 Pouilly-Fuissé, Les Chaillois, from the Domaine Leger-Finnet (£10.63), is an elegant alternative to costly Côte d'Or offerings, as is the '88 Pernand Vergelesses from Rollin (£11.06), with its leafy scent and hazelnut-like taste. Chardonnay fans should not forget California's '87 Stag's Leap Chardonnay (£12.19), whose rich, buttery-herbaceous style is, because of the sunnier climate, a luscious and full-bodied mouthful. Contact the Wine Treasury at 143 Ebury Street, London SW1 for further details. Wine is only sold by the case. Delivery costs £4 within the radius of the M25, £8 for the rest of England, and £12 to Scotland. Six cases or more are delivered free.

If you are on the look-out for last-minute Easter wine purchases, nip into your nearest branch of Peter Dorian. The quality of many of its wines over the past few years has not been good, but its recent "Journey Around the World" promotion shows that it is trying. The latest country to be featured is Spain and, although the pair of Marques de Murrieta riojas were nothing special, PD's Torres range is worth attention. The '87 Tres Torres, Sangre de Torro, made from Garnacha and Cariñena grapes, is a good buy at £3.99, and its bright damson and cherry fruit slips down easily. So does the elegant, citric '87 Gran Vinya Sol (£4.79), made from Chardonnay and the local Parellada grape.

Finally, if you are thinking of going to Spain this summer, it is worth calling in at a Thresher wine shop. From now until May 9, customers who spend £10 or more will be offered a free return flight to Spain from Gatwick or Manchester to Malaga or Murcia airports. The free flight vouchers are available only to customers who are paying for a fortnight's self-catering accommodation in certain apartments. Further details from Jayne Bridges, Thresher, Sefton House, 42 Church Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

## WINE BUYS

● 1987 Les Eaux Semillon-Chardonnay, Haynes, Hanson & Clark, 17 Lettice Street, London SW6, £5.40; Les Amis du Vin, 19 Charlotte Street, London W1, £5.35

● 1983 Jean Leon Cabernet Sauvignon, Laymont & Shaw, The Old Grange, Molesey, Surrey, £5.50

## FOOD

## Variety is staff of life

ONE could be forgiven for thinking that the Lord's Prayer had been successfully modified to run: "Give us this day someone else's daily bread". For many shoppers, bread is no longer a dreary staple necessity, but an exciting manner of choice, (Robin Young writes). What shall we have today — cholla, Vogel's Swiss mixed grain, German Landrot, Greek pitta?

I have, I admit, given up on British imitations of French bread, which seem to equal the loaves one would find in French hypermarkets, but never those that come from village bakeries. I am, though, enamoured of Marks & Spencer's ciabatta — a flatish Italian loaf prepared with an enriching dose of olive oil. It is available from 60 stores around the London area and is identical to that sold in some of Soho and Islington's best Italian provision stores.

When one thinks of the dreadful rolls served in most Italian trattorias, and the sterile grissini breadsticks which were all most of us knew about Italian bread a few years ago, the success of the Italian London bakeries, Il Fornaio, under the St Pancras railway arches, and La Fornace in West Acton, is all the more remarkable and welcome.

The success of ciabatta in the London area is phenomenal. It is, in fact, the only survivor of a range of Continental speciality breads with which Marks & Spencer was experimenting, but it has proved so popular that it is now available in roll form and as a ready-to-bake loaf.

Its appeal is surely that it is a traditional peasant-style bread, baked on a commercial scale and rushed not in the production, but only in the distribution. It is baked in the small hours of the morning to be fresh on the shelves at opening time, which is why it is not yet available nationwide, yet its worth is, to me at least, only emphasized by its usefulness when stale — for frying with garlic and making Tuscan bread soups, for example.

Most of the sliced bread which comes into our house ends up being fed to ducks and blackbirds. They do not, I notice, get any ciabatta.



The grove white shib that was her true love had GET LOST written all over it.

Maybe it wasn't reading it right. SURELY she wouldn't have him in the freezing cold hall the night just before her Easter egg would slip.

"You're not enough" had said on the phone earlier. She'd laughed so much she'd dropped the receiver and cut him off.

He thrust his hands into the pockets of his park. Easter bunny suit and found the new CHILL'D brand of Petite Liqueur he'd brought to make friends with.

Pushing his lips through the letterbox he called to her outside, eyes watering, the always-used-to-everything he had told, "Karen, I've got a little SURPRISE for you. It's small, perfectly put together."

The door opened. "It's only got two words to say to you," she said, taking the Petite Liqueur from him.

"Lrn. Happy Easter?" he suggested.

"No, Hop it."

THINK PETITE. Petite Liqueur. A sparkling blend of peillon Bordeaux wines and the old cognac. From the house of M&S & Chandon.

PETITE LIQUEUR  
ROET & CHANDON



Anthony Quinton on the heretical philosophy of W.V. Quine, engagingly expounded in a new volume

At 81, W.V. Quine of Harvard retired, if only in an administrative sense, as one of the most admired and discussed of philosophers in the English-speaking world. He has done more than anyone to loosen the hold of the variously amorphous, lexicographic manner of doing the subject shared by Wittgenstein, Ryle and Austin. Until about 1960 American philosophers came over here to sit at their feet, or where their feet had been. Now, largely thanks to Quine, the traffic is mainly in the other direction.

That is not to say that his doctrines are all that widely accepted; they are far too bold to be accommodated in a hurry. But they have been magnetic enough to command attention and to set much of the agenda of discussion for these last three decades. Although strikingly innovative, Quine did not emerge from the outer margins of the discipline. He began, like Russell, and as a close student of Russell's work, as a mathematical logician, and wrote his first four books in that capacity. Philosophically he was closest to Carnap, the most scientific of the scientifically minded logical positivists. He agreed with Carnap that the main business of philosophy is the analysis of science, that is to say the investigation of the way in

## Pure thought applied to the art of science

PURSUIT OF TRUTH  
By W. V. Quine  
Harvard, £13.95

which it is based on the evidence of the senses, and the interpretation of the language in which its findings are expressed. He also agreed that mathematical logic is the proper instrument for the work of analysis.

Within this framework of agreement he then proceeded to excite heresy. First he rejected the idea, at least as old as Hume and Leibniz, that there is a sharp distinction between truths of fact, justified by observation, and conceptual truths, susceptible of proof by reasoning alone. He argued with invincible ingenuity that the truths of logic and mathematics are just part of the overall fabric of science, and that they differ from the rest only in our reluctance to abandon them when some recalcitrant experience requires us to make some adjustment to the system of our beliefs. In the same spirit, he went on to assert that our theories cannot be understood as abridgements or summaries of experience, since experience never rules out any particular

belief, it only prompts us to make some revision or other.

A host of other new thoughts followed. Ontology, anathema to Carnap, was reinstated in a purer, more rigorous form. Quine took it to show that if we are to use mathematics in science — as we must if we are to have any science at all — we must admit the existence of some abstract entities, namely classes, irreducibly mentioned in the set theory from which mathematics can be derived. I shall not attempt to explain his thesis of the indeterminacy of translation.

An interesting collision with philosophical tradition from, say, Descartes to Carnap is Quine's proposal to "naturalize epistemology"; that is, to treat the philosophical theory of knowledge as if it

were part of natural science. Descartes, and Carnap when young as well, sought to explain the relation between our sense-impressions and our beliefs about the public world in such a way as to render the latter rationally credible. That way of raising the question is calculated to inspire sceptical anguish. For might I not be a brain in a bottle being fed delusive impressions of sitting writing a book review at a desk by some neo-Frankenstein?

Quine does not face that question. He circumvents it by taking the sensory evidence on which science depends as "surface irritations", physical episodes of stimulation of the sensitive parts of the nervous system. Since my nervous system is uncontroversially part of the public world, no hazardous leap is involved in arguing from it to other public items like chairs, electrons, and galaxies. Perhaps he ought to have defined scepticism first; the thing can be done.

He specifies just what science-

naturalized theory of knowledge is in the words "the technology of anticipating sensory stimulation". That does suggest that the world really consists of such stimulations (or of what they directly lead us to believe in) and that the rest of theory is not a description of the world but a prediction-appliance. Perhaps one always suspects American philosophers of pragmatism.

Pursuit of Truth is, like all Quine's works, most engagingly written. He strives for concision of the most telegraphic sort, and achieves it in a way that gives the special pleasure evoked by a conspicuous skill. It does indeed, as he says in the preface, "update, sum up and clarify [his] variously interesting views".

The claim of the blurb that "it does not assume the reader's previous acquaintance with Quine's writings" is, however, questionable. It certainly assumes a fairly large familiarity with recent philosophy, as well as an extensive vocabulary, containing such terms as "extensionality" and "holism".

All but the expert would, I think, be well advised to approach him by way of *The Web of Belief* (written with J.S. Ullian), which is, as it was intended to be, remarkably easy going over quite difficult terrain.

## Against t

How did a generous religion like Catholicism come to hand down such a pessimistic and functional view of sex?

Fiona MacCarthy discusses a fascinating, and sometimes richly comic, puzzle

Uta Ranke-Heinemann was the first woman ever to hold a university chair of Roman Catholic theology. Three years ago, disapproving of her questioning of the virgin birth, the Catholic Church withdrew her teaching licence. This book therefore reaches us from the heat of controversy, predictably specific in its anger and ardour. Its rage should encourage, not deter, more general readers. The publishers suggest it is essential reading for any woman who questions the self-image handed down to her by society. I think that this is true.

Writing about impotence, which Ranke-Heinemann does well, she argues that anybody so remote from the real nature of human sexuality as the Catholic Church's celibate ruling class creates for

the spilling of semen weaken people.

Pythagoras ruled that sex was just about allowable in winter, but never in the summer. The result of all this, Ranke-Heinemann posits is perception of women as functional and lowly, a sort of flower pot for nurturing male seed.

Ranke-Heinemann is a tough arguer. This makes her book different from and much less subtle than Marina Warner's *Alone of All Her Sex: The Myth and the Cult of the Virgin Mary* (Warner is not even mentioned in this book's bibliography). She pushes through her view that the New Testament account of the virgin birth was never intended to be taken literally. It has been misconstrued, strengthening the moral standpoint of people temperamentally inimical to sex and marriage.

### EUNUCHS FOR HEAVEN

The Catholic Church and Sexuality

By Uta Ranke-Heinemann  
Translated by John Brownjohn  
André Deutsch, £25

St Jerome, she says, was wrong in his view that people come to prize virginity because Mary had been a virgin. The Mariologists turned Mary into a perpetual virgin, precisely because they were at

able pseudo problems". Her book is inspired by the high irony implicit in the ways in which Catholic judgements about sex have been made through the centuries by sexual non-performers. This encouraged sexual practices unique in their sheer joylessness, summed up by Bernard Häring, Catholic counterpart to Alex Comfort. Häring's handbook on *Love Techniques* suggests that married couples practise "a common orientation towards God".

The anti-pleasure principle was formulated early. Ranke-Heinemann's first chapter, a thoroughgoing survey of the non-Christian roots of Christian sexual pessimism, provides us with the wonderful Catholic example of the elephant that mates only once every two years.

The Stoic denigration of sexual activity was deeply embedded in Catholic tradition: the view that total abstinence was the ideal to aim at, with matrimony thrown in as a concession to those for whom despicable urges proved too much. Though Ranke-Heinemann does not pursue the subject, the Senecan notion of the shamefulness of loving one's wife to excess was still in full swing in England in this century. The community of Catholic converts in particular has been richly endowed with emotionally reticent, male-chauvinistic wife-beaters. Is this, one wonders, a cause or an effect?

"Male semen," as Ranke-Heinemann states accurately, "has become a special object of pastoral concern." The historic Catholic obsessiveness with semen — the directive to hold on to it whenever possible; the fustings and fumings about whether, when ejected, it has ended up "in the vessel, in an improper vessel, or outside the vessel" — are traced back by Ranke-Heinemann to ancient notions that

tuned to prize virginity. How much of a sexual neurotic was Saint Augustine? Ranke-Heinemann defines him as a creature of dangerous mental disorders, who dramatized the fear of sexual pleasure, identifying it with lust to a degree which could only "induce a sense of nightmare". She is always interesting on the Catholic inheritance of desexualization, what she sees as the disastrous divorce of love from sex.

She is particularly pertinent, and risky, in her attempts at relating the confessional, with its insistence on the exact recounting of the sexual sins, to pornographic impulses. It is a knife-edge subject, all too easily evaded. That whole relationship of the celibate and sexual has been, to me, a fascinating puzzle since working through the exchange of correspondence from the 1920s between certain Catholic priests and Eric Gill.

The subject has a high degree of built-in farce, and in fact this book is often quite extraordinarily funny. The rhythm method is always good for laughs, as David Lodge proved in his novel *How Far Can You Go?* But even more hilarious than anything in Lodge is Ranke-Heinemann's account of Cardinal Hugonin (how can he be called Hugonin?) who c.1200 invented the restrained embrace, the *amplexus reservatus*, not to be confused with *colas interruptus*; the last and out of which apparently still continue to divide the Catholic moral theologians.

I would also recommend, to connoisseurs of Catholic imperturbability, Ranke-Heinemann on the punctured condom syndrome. The

## Slaves to changing attitudes on civil rights

LIFE and art owe more to each other than the authors of either might wish. In retrospect, American society in the last 30 years displays an ironic coincidence: in life, the civil rights movement, which has made so great a rhetorical (and sometimes a little practical) difference to the unhappy lot of American blacks; in art, an astonishing proliferation of historical scholarship on the history of slavery in the United States, which has undermined many of the popular assumptions about that practice on which the civil rights movement is still premised.

Civil rights goals, and the traditional account of slavery, were both defined in terms of the Founding Fathers' rhetoric: the freedom and equality of the new republic held out the offer of emancipation to all its citizens. The United States was essentially, and from its origins, libertarian. Slavery was a feudal survival, backward-looking, reactionary, always disavowed by enlightened Americans. It was an anomaly left over from the Old World, waiting to be swept away. In the Civil War, Americans did just that. The civil rights movement was merely a logical extension of the libertarian promise of the Franklins and Jeffersons.

It was these assumptions that turned *Time on the Cross*, first published in 1974, from a classic work of quantifying economic history into a political hot potato. With an impressive array of empirical data, its authors overtook most of these assumptions. From the 17th to the mid-19th century, majority opinion in America was heavily pro-slavery, not least because it was successful and profitable: investment in slaves compared favourably with the best investments in manufacturing.

Far from being in decline, slavery was spreading and strengthening before the Civil War, with slave-owners optimistic about their economic future. Not only was slave agriculture more efficient than free



Cotton picking on the plantation in 1860: slavery in the American Deep South was extremely profitable by the time of the Civil War

Jonathan Clark

TIME ON THE CROSS  
The Economics of American Negro Slavery  
By Robert William Fogel and Stanley L. Engerman  
Norton, £6.95

WITHOUT CONSENT OR CONTRACT  
The Rise and Fall of American Slavery  
By Robert William Fogel  
Norton, £17.95

agriculture; slaves in urban industry were more efficient and profitable than free labour, and slavery was spreading faster in the town than in the country. Nor was this (materially at least) a disaster for blacks: the black family was not destroyed by sales, promiscuity, or sexual exploitation; the diet and living conditions of slaves compared favourably with those of free workers.

Were slaves exploited? "Over the course of his lifetime, the typical slave field hand received about 90 per cent of the income he produced." And he participated in a prosperous system: by 1860, per capita income in the South equaled Switzerland's, and easily exceeded that of France, Germany and Italy. By contrast, after emancipation the life expectancy of blacks declined, their diet deteriorated, their work force was squeezed out of skilled occupations, their wage differentials against whites widened.

It began to look as if anti-slavery campaigners were the villains, using the law and the rhetoric of

equality to depress the condition of the negro. The finger of suspicion was firmly pointed at the present-day liberal.

The result, predictably, was a howl of indignation. The authors protested that they had merely sought to free blacks from ahistorical myth that depicted them as "the pitiful victims of a system of slavery so repressive

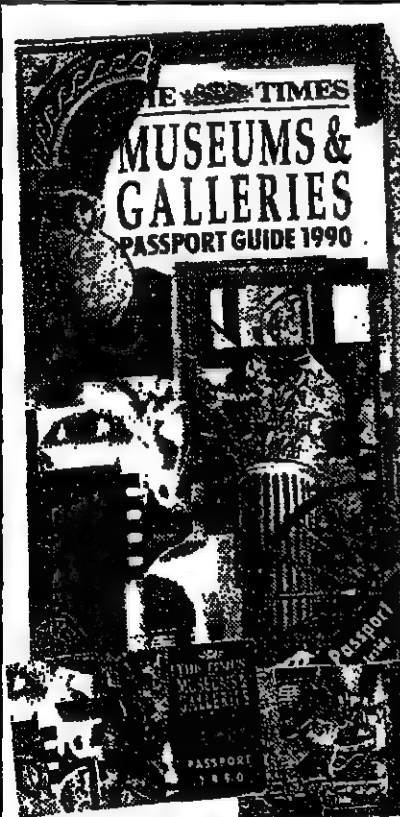
that it undermined their sense of family, their desire for achievement, their propensity for industry, their independence of judgement, and their capacity for self-reliance". Critics claimed that the book was "amoral": *tout comprendre c'est tout excuser*.

In their new edition, the authors admit that "we seemed to be diminishing the moral horror of slavery and providing (no matter how innocent the intention) an apologia for centuries of exploitation". Hence *Without Consent or Contract*, an act of penance, in which the evolution of scholarship has been subtly modified by the need to devise a moral critique of the past.

It is, of course, a superb achievement of modern quantifying research, which takes due account of humanist learning on the religious, cultural, and political dimension of American slavery from its beginnings to 1860. This volume embodies the results of a vast range of empirical research since 1974; but it is as striking for the moral

agonizing of its author, caught in a system in which academics are required to be on the side of the angels. Some of Fogel's assailants insisted that the moral implications of his technical research were "so pernicious that the findings should have been suppressed even if factually correct".

He has not done so; but, instead, offers a reflection on "The Moral Problem of Slavery" to reconcile his research with the demands of his culture. He performs this feat by arguing that the contradiction between slavery's moral iniquity and its economic success collapses if we reject "the widely held assumption that technological efficiency is inherently good", that "productivity is necessarily virtuous". The empirical research since 1974 shows that the conclusions of *Time on the Cross* still largely stand; but they can be squared with modern morality only by a partial disavowal of market economics. In its new way, this book is as explosive, and as symptomatic, as its precursor.



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## It might be feminism, but who says it's art?

THE argument on which this book is based runs like this: men and women have been allotted different positions by art history. According to Chadwick, this asymmetry consists of a "masculinist" claim for the universal values of a history of heroic art, which just happened to be produced by men; that claim necessarily entails a feminist counter-claim of a history of art, with whatever is left for it. This is the argument of *Women, Art and Society*, which becomes an extended chronological apologia, starting with the Middle Ages, and finishing with the inevitable Postmodern postscript. Without wishing to minimize either its scholarly merits or entertainment, the argument seems to me unconvincing.

As a historical movement, feminism advocated the advancement and emancipation of women. But in the history of art, since the Seventies, feminism has become a self-sufficient, autonomous movement. Its criteria are neither style, nor historical accident, nor a common basis in theory or aesthetics, nor any other category of the art



Die by Faith Ringgold: mural of an American street riot, 1967

Sandra Miller

WOMEN, ART AND SOCIETY  
By Whitney Chadwick  
Thames & Hudson, £8.95

history business, but the simple fact of being a woman. Some artists choose to consider themselves women first, and artists second, and fly the banner of feminism, with sadly counterproductive results. An example is Mary Kelly's *Post Partum Document*, shown at the ICA in 1979, the aim of which was "the chronicling of the child's first

syllabic utterances to the museum parody of diaper stains - mounted in plaid-boxes like the best examples of modernist work on art

paper", packaged with accompanying texts like: "Such work is scriptural precisely because feminine discourse is trying to articulate the unsaid, the 'feminine', the negative signification, in a language which is

coincident with patriarchy", etc.

Chadwick sees the 1980s as a decade dominated by a new generation of male Neo-Expressionists - David Salle, Julian Schnabel, or Francesco Clemente, for example - in a series of exhibitions "remarkable for their exclusion of virtually all women". A few pages later we are told the painter Paula Rego "also returned to the figurative tradition of painting, but used heroic scale, harsh lighting, and theatrical compositions". Quite true, but Chadwick cannot help embroidering. According to her Rego set out "to represent a pantheon of female figures: traditionally suppressed in accounts of male exploits". Rego, however, sees herself primarily as an artist.

Nevertheless, Chadwick has to admit that in spite of the handicap of being female, recognition was sometimes given when due, as in the case of Marietta Robusti, daughter of Titoretto, who was invited by the Emperor Maximilian and later Philip II to become court painter. It was her father who refused - for the obvious practical reasons - to give her permission.

## Saint Lenin and wic

racy, and then the revolution was hijacked by a later-day Tsar prepared to inflict any cruelty on his people to increase what was less his nation's power than his own.

Mark you, Shatrov says this straight out only in the final play, *Onward, Onward, Onward*, which was written safely within the glasnost era. The other two concern events before Lenin's death, the second of them an assassination attempt that occurred while Stalin was out of Moscow and therefore conveniently offstage. The dictator-to-be does, however, cut a pretty steady figure in the first play, *The Peace of Brest Litovsk*, which was written during the Khrushchev thaw. While Lenin and his other com-

rades conscientiously wrangle about the least damaging way to end the Great War, Stalin trims and shilly-shallies. He is also preciously accused of seeing the Communist

Party as the political equivalent of the Order of Teutonic Knights: all hierarchy, discipline and "justice and death at the stake". Whether for this reason, or because it brought the unmentionable Trotsky onstage, the play was banned for a time, and is still less known in the Soviet Union than

Benedict

THE BO

THREE

By MZ

Translated

by G2

Nick Hen

مكتبة الامن



OKS

# he pleasure principle



Johnson George

1987 Vatican Congregation pro Doctrina Fidei specifically forbade homologous artificial insemination within marriage on the grounds that it was omission without generative intent. One loophole was, however, provided. If the semen were collected in a condom during intercourse, and if the said condom were punctured as if to facilitate a natural generative act, the method was allowable. It would not need a sexual behaviourist to indicate the same results could be achieved

more straightforwardly by masturbation. But masturbation is still classified as one of the most sinful and unnatural forms of non-generative sexual activity, and could not be permitted even when procreation was its very purpose. Well, that—says Rankin-Heinemann—is the Roman Catholic Church. Her overall message is not one of hilarity, but of an immense sadness at much human waste and suffering. With a woman's practicality she resents sheer time expended by men over the centuries in arguing

about such sexual niceties as which constituted the more heinous sin, just felt for a beautiful woman or an ugly one. As if these things could matter. It was not what Jesus meant. Her critique is fundamentally that of the distortion of a generous religion, in which the body has its natural and God-given place, into a regime of narrowness and malice and the false set of priorities summed up by Ernest Block in 1936 with a concise bitterness: *Women with bare arms may not*

enter a church, but naked Jews may dig their own graves.

It is a considerable indictment, intellectually vigorous and powerfully argued. What is missing, I feel, is any inner context of personal biography that makes, for instance, Sara Maitland's writings on the subject of women and the church more immediately engaging. Rankin-Heinemann, one senses, has now reached a resolution. It would be interesting to know what brought her here.

As unhappy writers are somehow the same, but each happy writer is happy in his own peculiar way. John Updike's literary reputation has been made against the odds. He is the very antithesis of Hemingway machismo. He celebrates, rather than derides, the virtues of small-town and suburban middle-class America. His religious faith is simple, literal and churchy. "He is moral (for all the raunch of *Couples* which, along with Mary McCarthy's *The Group*, is the novel of the sexual revolution) with the morality of the Op den Dyck, his Dutch-Protestant ancestor. He is resistant to post-modernism; to feminism, and to most forms of 'affirmative action'. As he explains in his memoirs, he felt compelled to support the war in Vietnam. Most unforgivable, he is at peace with his world. 'I have been happy here.' Despite his serenity he has had some difficulty 'Getting the Words Out'. The basis of his contentment is stillness and small things. 'If we keep utterly still, we can suffer no wear and tear, and will never die.' His alter ego Henry Bech, who later returned for an encore in *Bech is Back*, is Updike only in so far as he is Updike in the uncomfortably jet-

## Updike beneath the skin

Brian Morton

**SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS: MEMOIRS**  
By John Updike  
Penguin, £4.99  
**BECH: A BOOK**  
By John Updike  
Penguin, £4.99

lagged, spotted, unstill, drunk and oversexed role into which fame has thrust him. Glimpes on reading tours to pre-thaw Bulgaria, to the Deep South, to swinging London, Bech is distinguishable from such other semi-autobiographical writer-heroes as Philip Roth's Nathan Zerkow and a certain quality of cheerful irony and a basic earthy poise. Updike has never made any bones about the fact that his fiction

— far beyond the conventional, forgivably autobiographical first novel — draws heavily on his own life; in *Self-Consciousness*, he cross-references passages from his stories and novels with his memories of childhood in Shillington, Pennsylvania. What he objects to is autobiography and autobiographical fiction as emotional "scab-picking" (his models are Proust and Henry Green rather than Freud). And he knows whereof he speaks, for the basis of his own adolescent self-consciousness was a virulent psoriasis, which reduced his skin every winter to crusty sores and necessitated sun and sunlamp cures. Coupled with a fearsome stammer (and a tendency to asthma that made it even harder to get the words out), it might have turned Updike in on himself, either as man or writer. It seems, on the contrary, to have reinforced a genuinely sunny disposition. Though "At War With My Skin", he knows that the hostilities are superficial, for something remains inside, sun-warmed. The concluding essay sees him happily, but by no means complacently, resigned to an unfashionable destiny, "On Being a Self Forever".

conducted along specific and strictly defined lines, otherwise we run the risk of repeating the lamentable experience of the Jacobins, whose law sanctioning preventive detention was ultimately nothing but the antechamber of the guillotine. That is an extract from *The Bolsheviks*, but could as well come from *Onward*, which largely consists of a dream-debate in which a resurgent Lenin exorcises a sullen Stalin for his atrocities. Here, however, is surely Shatrov's main limitation as a dramatist. What happens when his fellow-citizens begin to scrutinize his hero? What happens if they find Lenin, like Stalin, guilty of calfing "imposing socialism from outside"? My guess is that they will let Shatrov go on writing; but his plays will seem dreadfully passé.

## ked old uncle Joseph

Nextingale  
SHEVITS: PLAYS  
by Shatrov  
by Michael  
Farr  
Books, £7.95

appearing at all. It is perhaps not surprising that he should be the main topic of conversation, since it is August 1918, and he has just been shot and wounded. But every few moments Shatrov interrupts the talk with telegrams Lenin supposedly dictated before the attack; and each one re-emphasizes his

foresight, strength, diligence and care for the individual. "How can we go on without him?" sobs Lunacharsky. That cry, those tears, are also Shatrov's. Still, the play does also demonstrate Shatrov's strengths. He can generate dramatic tension. At best he can bring history sharply to life. In the pre-Gorbachov era he pushed forward the frontiers of officially sanctioned drama by introducing, for instance, a serious discussion of the case for the "red terror". You feel he tries to report the truth as he understands it. Against that one must set a tendency to become wordy and ponderous. Fry the actor asked to inject life into: "Red terror must be

Caroline Alexander's *One Dry Season* caused me once again to question the validity of books by authors who deliberately choose to travel in the tracks of others. Twice in the last decade I have contemplated such a journey; and twice found myself dismissing the idea. Using someone else's itinerary, someone else's blueprint, robs the writer of vital resources of initiatives, of imagination, and above all of the freedom to alter plans on a whim, a hunch, or a chance meeting. On the whole (there are always exceptions), copy-cat footstepping is too restrictive: it casts a dead hand on the prose. Caroline Alexander decided otherwise. In this book she follows a journey made in 1893 by Mary Kingsley through Gabon in what was then French West Africa: a country of jungle sliced by rivers and rapids, and thought to be the "wildest and most dangerous part of the West African regions". That Kingsley's adventures were considered significant is illustrated by the fact that a reporter from Reuters was waiting at the gangplank when her ship docked in Liverpool; *The Times* was eager to interview her; she produced a book 700 pages long, and then started an extensive lecture tour in which she attempted to correct the then prevalent view that "it is in Africa that the lowest depth of evil barbarism is reached". Africa and African affairs were much discussed topics in the London Press of Kingsley's time: overturned canoes and cannibalism made exciting reading. Not any more. And this is one reason why my interest waned, and I completed the 300 pages with effort. A sense of adventure is missing; the prose seems joyless and the author, a young American academic (the jacket photograph makes her look like Meryl Streep), is ill at ease with the superficial nature of her chosen task: "I was revisited with the uneasy sensation of being merely a tourist... I

suddenly felt vague and insubstantial... I seemed to be skimming over the surface of someone else's deeper experience." The problem, I suspect, is that *One Dry Season* lacks purpose, apart, that is, from "footstepping". Mary Kingsley had a purpose. Both her parents had died. She needed a new focus to her life, and she wanted to visit "the tropics" — on which her father had been some- Pietro Della Valle had a solid reason for his travels from Italy through the East to the Holy Land at the beginning of the 17th century: he was fitted. (There is a school of thought that suggests that all those who travel in order to write are running away from something.) Della Valle describes himself as "il pellegrino", which gives the title to the book that George Bull, an acknowledged expert on 17th-century Italian literature, has astutely edited and translated from the

## Travels in time

Linda Christmas

**ONE DRY SEASON: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY KINGSLEY**  
By Caroline Alexander  
Bloomsbury, £14.95  
**THE PILGRIM: THE TRAVELS OF PIETRO DELLA VALLE**  
Translated, abridged and introduced by George Bull  
Century Hutchinson, £19.95

letters Della Valle sent home from his travels, which lasted for more than a decade. Edited, in this instance, means massively cut: George Bull is still enough of a journalist (ex *Financial Times* and *The Director*) to know how much we can take without chronic indigestion. None the less, the volume retains a scholarly air, and is not to be devoured in a couple of sittings. Few pilgrims have travelled in such style. Della Valle had with him a professional painter, a friar for philosophical debate, and a couple of personal attendants — the latter pair were reduced to one, when Tommaso in a fit of jealousy knifed the good Lorenzo when he was preparing a little light supper for his master. Living dangerously obviously inspired Della Valle. At times he behaves like an English lord on a grand tour (rather before the grand tour came into fashion). His style is sometimes ambassadorial, but then comes a passage that is so acute in observation and so precise in description that it all becomes worthwhile. His visit to Shah Abbas the Great in Persia is a masterpiece of restrained comedy. Before the actual reception the teetotal Persians get mildly inebriated, entertaining the infidel with the pressings of the grapes of Shiraz. When the King eventually gives audience, his chief adviser falls into a fish tank in his haste to bring more wine. The scene could have come out of a Rossini comic opera. Elsewhere Della Valle comes out as a more solemn fellow, and one who reveals little about himself and little of the emotion that made him hasten from Rome and the pangs of love. But his years on the road were clearly more fun than any conventional marriage: on his travels he marries a Babylonian girl and when she dies he marries his adopted daughter. Woe betide anyone who fancies following in his footsteps.

## Bigger, but not always better

AND so the books get longer. Once upon a time the horror novel was a snappy little diversion you could devour in one or two sittings. Now it takes days, even weeks to plough through it. Whatever the reason, I resent it.

Take Dan Simmons. His first novel, *Song of Kali*, was a tour de force of exotic evil, ending in a kick of nightmare proportions, yet it barely stretched to 300 pages. But duck for cover, here comes his follow-up: all 690 pages of it. *Carrie Comfort* is about a race of "mind vampires" who live among humans, invading their innermost thoughts, feeding off their emotions and controlling their actions. Naturally, these vampires do not get their victims to distribute blankets to the poor; they force them to wreak havoc. This is an intriguing premise, and the story opens brilliantly: "Nina was going to take credit for the death of that Beatie, John. I thought that was in very bad taste."

But Simmons goes for the epic showdown between dull-but-good guys (Holocaust survivor, sensitive sheriff, plucky girl photographer) and fun-but-bad guys (mind vampires, covert government agencies). Tension dissolves in a flurry of multiple viewpoints, and the action degenerates into repetitive clashes full of Uzzi sub-machine-guns and big explosions. A shame, because Simmons is too good a writer to be wasting his energy on Rambo-with-added-ESP.

**HORROR**  
Anne Billson  
**CARRION COMFORT**  
By Dan Simmons  
Headline, £14.95 hardback, £6.95 paperback

● *The Wise-Dark Sea*, by Robert Aickman (Mandarin, £3.99). For an invigorating dose of brevity, one need look no further than Aickman's short stories, each one a small but perfectly formed masterpiece of uneasiness, such as *The Trains*, about two hitch-hikers who get stranded in a house between railway lines on the moors, or *The Fetch*, in which the heir to a Scottish estate also inherits the frightening symbol of his family's sorrows. Aickman, who died in 1982, follows in the M.R. James tradition of understatement, but adds his own peculiar flavour; his protagonists are repressed civil servants and obsessive introverts, his plots are oblique and disturbing manifestations of their fears and desires. Do not be put off by a dreadful cover illustration which looks as if it is advertising a sword 'n' sorcery trilogy — these stories are, as they say, the business, and it would be nice to see more of his work back in print; start lobbying your local publisher now.

● *Skin of the Seal*, edited by Lisa Tuttle (The Women's Press, £5.95). When the horror anthology, *Prime Evil*, was published, Tuttle noticed that not one of its contributors was female. It is a fallacy that women do not write horror stories, and here she redresses the balance with an all-woman collection culled from British, American and Antipodean sources. If there is a common thread running through the tales, it is the fierce empathy extended towards what are more usually thought of as monstrous outsiders. At their best (top-notch contributions from Suzy McKee Charnas, Joan Aiken and Tuttle herself), these stories are triumphs of proof that the horror genre is not the man-only stomping ground it is often reckoned to be.

● *The Silence of the Lambs*, by Thomas Harris (Mandarin, £3.99). Harris's sequel to *Red Dragon* is already being filmed by Jonathan Demme, with Jodie Foster as the forensic student tracking down a grisly serial killer nicknamed Buffalo Bill, and Anthony Hopkins in the role of Dr Hannibal Lecter, the omniscient, hypersensitive mass murderer and cannibal who takes a shine to her from behind the bars of his maximum security cell. As a supervillain, Lecter is like *Fantomas*, *Dracula* and *Ernst Stavro Blofeld* rolled into one big bundle of horrible homicidal fun. No self-respecting psycho-thriller fan should be without this novel. And it is only 352 pages long.



James, apprentice-shepherd, gets to know Jess, apprentice-sheepdog: Kim Lewis's words and pictures take us through the changing seasons on a sheep farm in a simple, warm-hearted and natural story (Walker Books, £7.95)

## Muddling through

FOR CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

**WHY I'M ALREADY BLUE**  
By Terry Farish  
Collins, £8.95

TWELVE-year-old Lucy can easily be forgiven for being already blue. Her father, a dentist, is having a mid-life crisis, and spends most of his time either drunk or picking grubs off his dahlias. Her mother, short-fused at the best of times, doesn't know what to do, although, like a high-school girl, she does paint "I love you James" in mile-high letters on the local railway bridge. Finally, Lucy's much-loved older sister, who is training to be a nurse, discovers she doesn't much care for the sight of blood and flees nursing school, carrying with her a bereft baby. Perhaps paediatrics will answer better than operating rooms.

Lucy is a resilient character, however. Not only does she struggle her way through the muddle, step-by-step, but she also makes common cause with her pal Gus (who — for good measure — has muscular dystrophy), and also with one-armed Lance from the Day Night grocery store. The end of the story can hardly be called happy, but thanks to these stable souls it is at least up-beat and defiant. Blue-ness is held at bay. As a writer working on her first

novel, Terry Farish certainly picked a tough assignment for herself. Here are many of the standard ingredients of contemporary "teenage fiction", where physical and moral handicaps are a *sine qua non*, and a good deal of assurance is needed to mix them with this degree of panache. The American gift for sharp observation and snappy dialogue may have helped (no socio-political whingeing here) but perhaps we can allow a British contribution too. According to the blurb, Terry Farish not only worked in the Philosophy Library at Oxford, but was also apprenticed to her craft under the guidance of Jan Mark, one of our few story-tellers who knows the difference between a teenage novel and a teenage tract.

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## THE ARTS

Rhubarb  
pranksterRADIO  
Martin Cropper

ANYONE who telephones London Weekend Television to leave a message asking Hattie Scarsie to contact Marcus Garvey might be thought eccentric. It is part of the quizzical charm of *Victor Lewis-Smith* (Radio 1, Saturday) that all notions of eccentricity are suspended. By all means ask BBC television if there is a "General Pincher" in reception - if so, "please hold fire until Thursday" - or ask Broadcasting House to put out a call for Marcel Proust. So complete is Lewis-Smith's command of his medium, that such conceptual pranks assume an air of straight-faced normality.

Lewis-Smith is not only thumping rude about public figures. He also slips in material far more genuinely risqué than, for example, the unimpeachable *Mary Whitehouse Experience* that formerly occupied that slot. One imagines a substantial proportion of his audience tuning in with their letters of complaint already half-written. My own complaint would centre on his shameless roasting of antediluvian routines - last weekend, the rhubarb joke and the Hawaii joke - which sound no different in their new quarters.

More shamelessness was on offer in the first outing of *Public Affairs* (Radio 4, Thursday), a documentary series on great scandals of recent history. The case of Peter Rachman is notable for the fact that the press began to wax indignant about it.

Thirty years on, his biographer could not find former tenants of Rachman's prepared to complain; neither did "David Wheeler's" radio piece, which had ancient and placid Caribbean voices attesting to their sometime landlord's personal decency. And here is the paradox: that at a time when racism was legal, Rachman alone offered accommodation to "newcomers to Britain" - at a price.

Backstage rows, union bans, the clash of cash and ideals: the Mandela concert has it all. David Toop reports

## United we stand, for one day

SINCE their inception in 1967 with the San Francisco "Human Be-In", large-scale rock festivals have struggled under a variety of weighty symbolic burdens. The phenomenon, intensified in 1986, when Live Aid introduced the idea that rock stars and television could work together to raise both money and consciousness for a good cause.

The latest concert in this line of "committed rock", broadcasting will be at Wembley Stadium on Monday. Billed as an international tribute to Nelson Mandela for a free South Africa, its primary function is to serve as a platform for Mandela, who will address the television watchers of as many as 60 countries.

Originally conceived as a celebratory event, by the Nelson Mandela International Reception Committee in consultation with the African National Congress and the anti-apartheid movement, the event now carries symbolic burdens that are heavier than usual. Unlike the previous Nelson Mandela tribute - the 70th birthday celebration held at Wembley in 1988 - this is more than a consciousness-raising exercise. It has been stressed that the music of Simple Minds, Anita Baker, Tracy Chapman and all the other performers is secondary to Mandela's closing speech. Yet, as ever, entertainment and politics are not entirely in harmony.

Wally Serote, a member of the ANC Department of Arts and Culture, has been appointed liaison officer between the ANC and the South African musicians who will be appearing. "What I'm doing," he says, "is to a large extent looking at the political side of the concert - ensuring that the South African contingent is in a position to perform to their best."

Reading between the lines, this suggests that South African musicians did not fare well in the initial planning stages. Early press

releases indicated that top South African musicians would play two sets, yet the releases mentioned only two by name: Abdullah Ibrahim and Miriam Makeba.

Inevitably, there were rumours that some musicians felt slighted. "It's a very understandable thing," says Serote. "Many of the London-based South African musicians have been active over the years in campaigns for the release of Nelson Mandela, so it is quite understandable that when their leader has been released and is coming here, they would all be anxious to participate."

The anxiety now seems to have been soothed. Familiar faces from London's jazz scene, such as Dudu Pukwana, Julian Bahula and Lucky Rankin, will appear in a 15-minute set. The 25-minute set will be devoted to another South African grouping, including Miriam Makeba, Letta Mbulu, Caiphus Semenya, Jonas Gwangwa, pianist Abdullah Ibrahim and Sakhile. But Serote's most important catch is the black South African trumpeter Hugh Masekela, who will appear after weeks of speculation.

Masekela had earlier made a bitter statement, which did not ally him with rock stars might be using the event to promote their careers. "It's all very well people like George Michael turning up to the Mandela birthday concert two years ago, to promote their latest record and show how much they love dinkies by singing Marvin Gaye songs, but it's all bull." This quote was published by *Time Out*, the London listings magazine, but Serote claims Masekela may have been misquoted.

A tactless advertisement, placed by WEA Records in the trade magazine *Music Week*, has incensed other performers by suggesting to retailers that "Nelson Mandela will work for you if you stock up on these titles." The titles were albums by four WEA artists appearing on Monday: the

advertisement was a clear sign that WEA's marketing division was hoping for a repeat of the dramatic increase in Tracy Chapman's album sales after her appearance at the 1988 Mandela concert.

Worst of these complications is probably the case of Johnny Clegg. Clegg is a British-born white South African who, with his mixed race group, Savuka, has consistently defied and attacked apartheid, but is barred from the British Musicians' Union. "Someone can't choose to work both in the UK and South Africa and be a member of the British Musicians' Union," said Marilyn Stoddart, an MU district organizer. As one of the most outspoken musical critics of apartheid, Clegg would seem to be an obvious choice for Monday's concert, but his addition to the bill was not announced until a few days ago. Clegg will now appear as a guest on one of the non-South African sections of the show.

Meanwhile, the £2 million cost of mounting such an ambitious project at short notice threatens to eat up the profits that would otherwise be destined for charities including Christian Aid and the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development. As the press have been asked to pay £100 each for "facilities", tickets for the public are priced at £20, programmes at £3, and massive revenues are expected and global broadcasting rights, one hopes that some money does find its way to the people who suffer under apartheid.

The musical difficulties are trifling, of course, compared to the political complexities within South Africa itself, and many in the business feel that the ideals of these events compensate for their failings and occasional hypocrisy. Nevertheless, the charity rock show is a handwagon that needs careful watching - particularly as many more huge events



Youthful optimism: Mandela 70th birthday concert, Wembley 1988

are imminent. On May 5, for instance, a John Lennon tribute in aid of environmental causes will be held in Liverpool, starting a comprehensive list of pop, rock, blues, soul and country stars. Later this summer a multi-million-pound spectacular for disaster relief is scheduled to take place in Berlin.

"The strength of music," says Wally Serote, "is that it is able to bring people from different ages,

different cultures and different political ideologies together at one moment." With such an emphasis on size, spectacle and stars, however, can concerts for causes keep sight of their original ideals? Or are they doomed to a repetition of the late Sixties, when record companies took ideals and converted them into cash?

● Nelson Mandela - An International Tribute can be seen on BBC2, on Monday, 5.45-10.15pm.

Vietnam  
testamentTELEVISION  
Sheridan Morley

THE television war is what they called Vietnam. A quarter of a century on, it has been given its definitive documentary. What made *Arena: Dear America* (BBC 2) such a classic was the refusal of its producers to take any political line or editorial stance.

Working from an anthology of letters written by serving soldiers, the makers simply engaged distinguished American actors (Robert de Niro, Martin Sheen, Robin Williams) to read these missives over newsreel actuality of the battles, and the back-home newscasts of official reassurance.

The result was apocalypse now and then. From the cheery sounds of an army disc-jockey ("If the heat doesn't get you here, a jammed weapon will - remember, boys, to keep it clean and get your heads down") through the gathering darkness of life and death in the Big Nam, a story of infinite personal courage emerged against a background of increasing official carelessness. All the time, on the soundtrack, was the persistent rock of Hendrix and Dylan and the Stones, as evocative of that war as music-hall ballads were of 1914-18.

As losses mounted, fewer and fewer of the soldiers, marines or airmen understood the logic of their missions. By 1968, more than half were fighting in the certain knowledge that they could not win. The sorrow and pity of it lay in seeing men barely out of their teens fighting like *Fortinbras* for a little patch of meaningless earth, and in the official belief that the situation could be solved simply by throwing more human suffering at it.

The waste and the nobility were everywhere. 58,000 men died in *Dear America* showed what they thought of the futility of their comrades' deaths. It will live, like *Oh What A Lovely War*, by the sheer power of its evocation.

## A show well sprung

OPERA  
John Higgins  
L'Heure espagnole  
Gianni Schicchi  
Grand Theatre, Leeds

IT IS unusual to twin the only one-act comedies by Ravel and Puccini. Opera North's new double-bill proves that they can make a lively pair of bed-fellows - and beds are very much to the fore.

The one at the home of Torquemada-the clockmaker may be out of sight in the Ravel, but it is presumably much in use. And it is from the highly visible sick-bed in the Puccini that the Florentine scoundrel Gianni Schicchi leaves most of the property of the late Bono Donati to himself.

Even Frankie Howard might be pushed to make the immense work, as Concepcion's would-be lovers are heaved up and down stairs inside massive clocks, while her husband is out. Of course, she finally falls for the mulletier who does all the heaving.

Jason Howard only bares his chest and is generally convincing as the best bit of rough trade that Toledo can provide; the fastidious orchestral accompaniment Louise Winter is careful not to overplay the role of Concepcion. The other three characters are but ciphers - until the final quintet, which makes this rather faded piece worthwhile. It is crisply directed by Martin Duncan.

Tom Cairns' multi-set for a clockmaker's shop in Toledo becomes a darkened sick-room for Gianni Schicchi, and the Florentine sun does not penetrate until half-way through the opera.

At the centre is Andrew Shore's Schicchi, a figure part from Boccaccio and part from G & S, with a nose big enough to cast a shadow over half his face. Puccini has been accused - of letting sentimentality take over from comedy, but Shore, in a tipically wicked performance, keeps the balance right.

As Rimiccio, David Maxwell-Anderson should show more vocal grace, but Juliet Booth is properly demure as his intended. Again,



Jason Howard as Rimiccio

Martin Duncan drilled his forces to stylish comic effect. David Lloyd-Jones concentrated more on keeping his fingers together than on letting his orchestra make their musical jokes, especially in *L'Heure*, but in this good-humoured evening, Opera North paid Ravel the compliment of opening on a Thursday, the very day of the week when Concepcion is always at home for callers.

## Pace minus power

CONCERT  
Stephen Pettitt  
St John Passion  
St John's, Smith Square

SEVERAL years ago, Andrew Parrott readily acted upon Joshua Rifkin's suggestion (and demonstration through performance) that Bach's larger choral pieces might have been sung by forces so minimal that even the chorus was composed of solo voices. Soon, with his Taverner Consort and Players, he had made his own recording of the B Minor Mass. This *St John Passion*, performed by his Taverner groups, duly observed Rifkin's frugal tradition, and Bach's textures emerged cleansed, though the balance, and hence the impact, of the opening chorus was compromised by sheer lack of vocal power.

But there was something more consistently disturbing about this performance: its unrelenting pace. If the alto aria "Es ist vollbracht" (sung with boyishly pure tone by

Caroline Trevor) flowed with unusual ease, yet lost little of its emotion, almost all the other arias seemed indecently fast. David Thomas, who also sang Christus's recitatives poetically, despite Parrott's no-nonsense manner, sounded breathless in "Mein teurer Heiland", where there was almost no time at all for the chorus's interpolated questions. Emily van Evera made a bright job of the first soprano aria "Ich folge dir gleichfalls", Tessa Bonner a neat one of the second, "Zerleiss' mein Herz", but one wondered throughout what these voices could have made of the music given a little more space.

The instrumental playing was, on the whole, alert and crisp, with confident obbligatos, though once or twice there were some odd sounds from the very bottom of the register. But the evening's hero was the Evangelist, Rogers Covey-Crump, who was wonderfully fluent in that role but also proved his versatility and stamina with his determined and idiomatic singing of the taxing arias "Ach, mein Sinn" and "Erwäge, wie sein blutiger Tod Rucke".

## Fairy tale with force

THEATRE  
Benedict Nightingale  
Pericles  
The Pit

BEN Jonson called it "a mouldy tale", and critics have demolished *Pericles* with sadistic glee. They have mocked the iambic plot of the sections Shakespeare probably did not write, and have accused his authentic passages of out-maneuvring even his own romances.

Some have suggested that there is no point to the story of the prince who wanders the Med losing his wife, mislaying his child, and persistently getting shipwrecked, except to demonstrate the usefulness of time-tables, travel agents and meteorology.

That goes to show how feeble critics can be when asked to suspend incidental disbelief and open their imaginations to essentials. This is a fairy story with emotional truth at its core. Only the mature Shakespeare could have penned the scene in which Pericles, broken by suffering, rediscovers his daughter, the long-lost Marina. There is no more touching scene in the canon - no, not even the reconciliation of Lear and Cordelia.

For me, there was no better proof of its power than last night, when it re-activated the lump I keep at the back of my throat; and without being particularly well performed. The problem was not Susan Sylvester's Marina, who throughout had managed to make modesty, chastity and other "maidenly" virtues vital and

vivid. No, it was Rob Edwards's light if attractive Pericles. He certainly cuts a chivalrous figure. Like Miss Sylvester, he can express archaic deceptions, in his case honesty, courage and courtesy, without becoming wet. But he cannot yet be pierced to the soul. In the last act the text requires him to combine terminal depression with terminal exorcism. I recall Derek Jacobi's Pericles here looking like Howard Hughes in his shrivelled-vegetable phase. But you cannot feel the full force of the moment when Edwards finally stumbles red-eyed from beneath his blanket, to embrace Marina, because you have not felt the full force of the emotions that put him there.

Yet, amazingly, the scene still works - as does much else in David Thacker's production. The task of carrying us imaginatively through the Levant is not helped by his narrator, Rudolph Walker's Gower, who seems to be presenting an episode of *This is Your Life*. But a good supporting cast, and Fran Thompson's minimal designs, glut us with arresting moments: the starving of Tarsus; a finely orchestrated tournament, complete with a Samurais from Macedonia for Pericles to vanquish; above all, a Mytilene brothel from some Gillray-era cartoon, all retching tarts and disgusting slop buckets.

That is where Sylvester's moral defiance is at its most splendid, and the play's tenor consequently most eloquent. All Shakespeare's last comedies celebrate youth, renewal, reconciliation. It is time we recognized that the "apocryphal" *Pericles* does so as wonderfully as any.

**FESTIVAL OPERA**  
TANCRID by Giuseppina Bertini  
LE HURON by André Gelly  
**CHILDREN'S BALLET**  
APPELLACHIAN SPRING  
by Aaron Copland  
THE CURIOUS MUSICAL INSTRUMENT  
CALENDAR  
by George Joseph Weller  
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## RECORDS

## Smoother sides of Verdi

## OPERA

John Higgins

Verdi: *Attila*  
Studer/Shocoff/Zancanaro/Ramey.  
La Scala Orch/Muti (EMI CDS 7  
499322) (two CDs)  
Donizetti: *Don Pasquale*  
Saraceni/Schipsa/Poly/Badini. La  
Scala Orch/Sabajno (EMI CDS 7  
632412) (two CDs)

Young Italian opera conductors, if they are successful, often get dubbed as early Verdi specialists. They have the vigour and lack of inhibition, so the received wisdom goes, to put across the rawness and earthiness of the operas Verdi was composing in the 18-40s. It happened to Muti and it happened later to Sinopoli.

But rawness is not all in early Verdi, and may be superfluous. A school of thought is emerging that believes Verdi, even during those famous "galley years", was a considerably more refined composer than some commentators have made out.

Such a view is certainly taken by Riccardo Muti, who has come to *Attila*, first performed in 1846, in middle age. His EMI recording has expunged all coarseness — and earthiness — from the score. Not for nothing was *Attila* one of the favourite Verdi operas of that most fastidious of conductors, Carlo Maria Giulini.

The strings of the Scala orchestra give the opera its heart-beat, with the brass and percussion held well back at the start. In the second scene of the Prologue, Muti creates a magical picture of dawn over the Adriatic, with the storm clouds clearing (Rossini's influence here) and the first bells of morning tolling. Puccini may have remembered a thing or two when he came to write *Attila* of *Tosca*. Flute, horn and harp combine with equally graceful effect in the introduction to probably the best-known number in the score, Odabella's "Oh! nel fuggente nuvolo", an aria Callas sometimes included in recitals.



Refined performance: Riccardo Muti's EMI recording of *Attila* has expunged all traces of coarseness and earthiness from the score

Odabella is here sung by Muti's favoured soprano at the moment, Cheryl Studer. It is not difficult to see why he likes her. She can give this memory of her father's silken tone, but has huge reserves of vocal attack when Odabella is in murderous mood. Her lover, Foresto, is a duller role and Neil Shicoff sings it gallantly but with a certain monotony of timbre. Foresto has one enormous scene in the Prologue, lasting some eight minutes, and it must have been something of a relief to get on to the jaunty, joyous duet with Odabella in the first act.

To the Roman General Ezio go the best-known words of the libretto, "Avrai tu l'universo, resti l'Italia a me" (You shall have the universe, Italy stays with me), which reputedly raised patriotic

cheers on the first night. Giorgio Zancanaro, another favourite Verdi singer, delivers them with suitable gravity. And that is precisely the quality which so distinguishes Samuel Ramey in the title role. Attila, like Boris Godunov, is only half a tyrant and spends a lot of time sunk in his own gloomy thoughts before Odabella eventually puts the dagger in his breast.

The Scala chorus is on top form, notably at the end of Act II when opposing bands of Christians and infidels confront one another, just as they do in Verdi's *Jerusalem*, which has just entered Opera North's repertoire. All in all, this is a splendid set and outclasses its CD rival on Philips, whose trumpet card is Carlo Bergonzi's Foresto.

The Scala of almost 60 years ago

can be heard on the first CD release of the *Don Pasquale* recorded in 1932. Tito Schipa is featured on the cover and it will be for his Ernesto that most people will be drawn to it. His Act III Serenata has never been surpassed and, indeed, throughout Schipa is never less than ingratiating. But spare an ear for the Pasquale of Ernesto Badini, relishing every consonant and vowel in the style of a veteran comic, and Afro Poli turning in a characteristically excellent performance as Malatesta. Saraceni's Norina sounds a bit shrewish — with her as wife, Ernesto may eventually get as hard a time as did Pasquale. EMI's engineers have done wonders with the orchestra under Carlo Sabajno. It is well worth snapping up this set.

## CLASSICAL UPDATE

Record for Rumania (Marco Polo 8.223305)

This release may profit Rumania, but it does little for Enescu: the early Rumanian Rhapsodies and Romanian Poem are episodic and lush, with only the short, surely unfinished symphonic poem *Voix de la nature* showing a more complex personality. But the playing, by Rumanian orchestras, is passionate.

When Modern Vienna

PO/Abbado (DG 428 280-2) Concert recording from the 1988 festival, chiefly valuable for first recordings of Nono's early *Libesfeld*. Boulez's sumptuous orchestral *Notations* and Wolfgang Rihm's *Départ*.

## ROCK UPDATE

Depeche Mode Violator

(Mute STUMM 64)

Now an international touring colossus, Depeche Mode continue to inhabit their own mysterious universe parallel to the rock mainstream. Here is proof of their commitment to great pop melodies sculpted in clean, classic lines, particularly on the singles "Personal Jesus" and "Enjoy The Silence".

The Chills Submarine Bells

(Slash 828 191-1)

This rather overlooked album by the four-piece from Dunedin, New Zealand, is a serious, graceful and educated collection with such self-explanatory titles as "Heavenly Pop Hit" and "Elorescence and Deliquescence".

Jamaican Stewart What

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Dependable soul-pop-rap set from the Chicago-based dancer-turned-singer still fondly remembered for his 1986 hit "We Don't Have To Take Our Clothes Off".

Halo James Witness (Epic

4668761) Adult pop-soul concoction from the "Baby" trio; somewhat in the new Wet Wet Wet mould.

## Drumming up a neo-bop beat

## JAZZ

Clive Davis

Tony Williams Native Heart (Blue Note CDP-793170)

Poncho Sanchez Chiles Con Soul

(Concord Picante CDD-4406)

Dave Frishberg Let's Eat Home

(Concord CDD-4402)

No prizes for guessing that

*Native Heart* is a drummer's

album. From the opening of the title track, Tony

Williams's kit is poised well to the

fore of the sound mix, almost

drowning out his two horn play-

ers, Wallace Roney and Billy

Pierce. Constantly shifting the

accents, Williams — like Art

Bley — is a leader who does not

allow his soloists to dawdle.

In the early Seventies Williams

was part of the fusion pack with

Lifetime, a group which never

quite succeeded in marking out its

own distinct territory. With his

current quintet he is pursuing the

latest, neo-bop orthodoxy. Apart

from the inclusion of bassist Ira

Coleman (another of Berry Car-

ter's protégés), the band heard on

this album is the same unit that

Williams brought to the Queen

Elizabeth Hall some two years

ago.

The performance that evening

was polished rather than earth

shaking. *Native Heart* offers more

of the same. Williams's well-

crafted compositions float along at

a modest tempo, avoiding the

more extravagant speed tests.

Roney, an agile and lucid young

trumpeter, makes the most in-

cisive contribution, leaving

Pierce's tenor and soprano work

sounding colourless by compar-

ison. But even Roney struggles to

break through the scholastic

ambience.

As if to prove the point, the

overall level of musicianship on

Poncho Sanchez's new release

comes a long way down the scale,

yet at the same time is far more

satisfying. No one would claim

that *Chiles Con Soul* is a classic of

Latin music. Nevertheless, it does

contain that crucial element — a

sense of swing.

The presence of guest percus-

sonist Tito Puente is another

important element. Latin perus-

ists might frown at Sanchez's hetero-

dox tendencies: on this session a

James Brown routine sits comfort-

ably alongside "Lover Come

Back To Me" and Charlie

Palmieri's "Con Migo". Fortu-

nately the nine-piece band

smooths over all the cracks with

dazzling ease.

Admirers of the American

pianist-vocalist Dave Frishberg

have had to work hard to find his

work in the shops. *Let's Eat Home*

should ease the problem, even if it

is less than vintage Frishberg. At

his best — in songs such as "Tun

Hip" or "My Attorney Bernie" —

Frishberg has exhibited a Neil

Simon-like ear for American

folkies.

Here the lyrics tend to be off

target or, in the case of, say,

"Matry" (dedicated to a baseball

pitcher) downright mawkish. Lis-

teners who cannot adjust to

Frishberg's ready voice can at least

wallow in the medleys of Al Cohn

and Billy Strayhorn compositions

and the trumpet playing of the

Jimmie Lunceford veterans,

Snooky Young.

## JAZZ UPDATE

Brainstorm The Mystical

Dreamer (In-Out Records CD-

7006)

Chico Freeman's quintet

makes an excursion into electric

fusion that manages to avoid

most of the worst vices of the

genre, playing with verve and

intelligence.

Humphrey Lyttelton

Humphrey Lyttelton & His Band

(Philips 836764)

Compilation album of

sessions dating from 1980 to

1983.

## Elegance in the balance

The notes, by the artist, that accompany Paul Crossley's three-disc set of the complete piano music of Poulenc express perfectly the aesthetic standpoint of these pieces.

There is always, Crossley writes, a "creative tension between 'presence' and 'absence'". Such a tension has one of two effects: either one listens with fine-tuned perception, at other times with only half an ear, as if it were merely background music.

The truth is, of course, that there is nothing naive about it at all; that behind its surface appeal lies an inventive mind acutely aware of formal balance and clarity, no matter how vast or tiny the piece, how conventional or anarchic its language.

Nobody would claim that these pieces are central to the development of the musical ideas and ideals of the early 20th century, but they constitute an always intriguing, distinctively Gallic sideshow.

Crossley's is undoubtedly a fine achievement, though inevitably

## CLASSICAL

Stephen Pettitt

Poulenc: The Complete Music for Piano Paul Crossley (CBS Masterworks MSK 44921) (3 CDs)  
Chopin: Preludes Ivo Pogorelich (Deutsche Grammophon 428 227-2) (CD)

one sometimes feels that he is climbing this particular monolith simply because it is there. But he has also carefully eschewed any chronological progression on these three discs, instead constructing a separate recital programme, starting with an extended cycle (*Les Soirées de Nazelles* on disc one, the 15 *Improvisations* on disc two, and the *Huit Nocturnes* on disc three) for each of them. He often takes notice of Poulenc's own insistence that there should be "beaucoup de pédale", a tactic which frequently serves to put mystery into what otherwise might be brazen.

At the same time he draws lavishly upon his own naturally

elegant style, colouring textures with great subtlety and often invoking a lovely sense of nostalgia. Even in an acid piece like the first of the *Trois Mouvements Perpetuels* (1918), he avoids an over-aggressive spikiness.

If refinement and subtlety is the hallmark of Crossley's style, Ivo Pogorelich, to the horror of some and the delight of others, is nothing if not an assertive pianist, liable to exaggerate idiosyncratically.

There are occasions in his new recording of Chopin's 24 Preludes when the extent of his mannerism does threaten to offend, but these pieces are fair quarry for a touch of Pogorelich's brand of exhibitionism.

There are, of course, no doubts about technical brilliance and control, though his sense of poetry sometimes verges on the melodramatic and at other times seems over-prepared, to judge at any rate from his mechanical reproduction of a delaying mannerism in the "Raindrop" Prelude.

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## A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 25 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a bin by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

## INXS

Australian groups tend to be diligent muckers who swiftly amass a vast following at home and then spend years chiselling away at the northern hemisphere markets until resistance eventually crumbles. INXS is no exception, and, following a debut sustained hit, "Just Keep Walking" in 1980, the band doggedly released a succession of so-so albums, enlivened by the odd memorable tune such as "Original Sin" from *The Swing* (1984) or "Kiss The Dirt (Falling Down The Mountain)" from *Listen Like Thieves* (1986).

The penny finally dropped with *The Kick* (1987) which, after a sustained bout of heavy touring, reached the Top 10 in both Britain and America. The album's key songs — "Need You Tonight", "Devil Inside", "New Sensation", "Never Tear Us Apart" — betray a musical attitude that has more to do with calculation than inspiration. Vocalist Michael Hutchence's shameless appropriation of the Jagger/Goldof strain of macho camp is set against dance-rock rhythms ingeniously but lazily pasted together like a photofit picture.

## IRON MAIDEN

Conceived in east London at the height of punk, Iron Maiden flew in the face of every fashionable dictate. As if their unconcerned heavy rock formula was not risible enough, they glided the fly with broadsword and battle-axe lyrics and a fire-breathing, blood-bolting monster of a stage prop called Eddie. But with 25 million albums sold to date, it is Maiden who have had the last laugh. A grass-roots movement, The New Wave of the Eighties they had acquired one of the most loyal fan bases in rock. In 1980, with a series of releases, Maiden achieved the unprecedented feat of placing a different album in the UK Top 10 every week for 10 successive weeks. The *Number of The Beast* (1982) remains the definitive work. Proceeding with all the delicacy of a charging rhino, through tracks including "Run To The Hills" and the baroque finale "Hallowed Be Thy Name", it was the first album to feature vocalist Bruce Dickinson, and launched the band in the US.

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## THE WEEK IN PREVIEW

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**LOUIS STETTNER:** Born in 1922, this native New Yorker studied with Steigler and Paul Strand before arriving at a style of documentary photography firmly in the humanist tradition. His best pictures capture city life with an astonishing sense of participation and his design sense within each photograph is a joy to see. Kate Heller Gallery, London, NW1 (01-287 8328). From Tues.

**STANISLAW WITKIEWICZ:** (1899-1959) The photography of this playwright, philosopher, painter, photographer and Polish national hero is being exhibited for the first time outside Poland. It features work from all periods of his life. Photographers' Gallery, 5 and 8 Great Newport St London WC2 (01) 831 1772. From Friday to May 26.

## ROCK

**LISA STANFIELD:** Rochdale-born, "All Around the World" star, from the same post-punk stable as Yaz. Winner of Best Newcomer category in the 1990 BRITs awards. Royal Court, Liverpool (051 709 4321) Wed; Barrowlands, Glasgow (041 552 4801) Thurs; Newcastle City Hall (091 261 2606) Fri.

**SUZANNE VEGA:** Earnest Greenwich Village folkie turned mainstream adult-rock performer. New album *Days of Open Hand* out any day now. Corn Exchange, Cambridge (0223 357851) Mon; Brighton Dome (0273 674357) Wed; Guildhall, Portsmouth (0705 324355) Thurs; Poole Arts Centre (0202 685222) Fri.

**SINEAD O'CONNOR:** Shaven-headed Irish war with a voice as bracing as the morning sun. Currently doing brisk business, especially in America, with *I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got*. Cornwall Coliseum, St Austell (072681 4004) Sat; Aston Villa Leisure Centre, Birmingham (021 328 4884) Mon; Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham (0602 432626) Tues; Brighton Centre (0273 202881) Wed; Newport Centre (0633 258976) Fri.

**KYLIE MINOGUE:** Bright, wholesome and multi-talented popstar whose appeal shows no sign of diminishing how ever much her detractors may wish otherwise. NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133) Tues-Thurs.

**MANDELA CONCERT:** Celebratory follow-up to the 1988 70th Birthday tribute. Featuring Simple Minds, Peter Gabriel, Tracy Chapman, the Neville Brothers, Daniel Lanois, Neil Young and many others. Live broadcast on BBC2 8pm-10pm. Wembley Stadium (01-802 1234) Mon.

**LENNY KRAVITZ:** Rock'n'roll dread with influences encompassing the Beatles, Stax and Prince. Already well on the way to stardom in America. Marquee, London WC2 (01-437 6603) Wed.

## SALES

**PRINTS PARADE:** A chance for young collectors to get started with a wide variety of prints offered between £500-£1,000. Andy Warhol's 10 coloured silk screens "Campbell's soup II" signed in ballpoint 1969 are strictly for the wealthy (£32,000-£38,000). Sotheby's, London W1 (01-493 0800). Viewing tomorrow, Wed. Sale Thurs, Fri.

**EASTERN EXCURSION:** Edwardian Secretaire Chast (£500-£700) worth watching in 160-lot general sale. Restored 19th-century partners' desk also on offer and not too expensive at between £1,500 and £2,000. Criterion Sale Rooms, Islington, London N1 (01-353 5707). Viewing today, tomorrow, Mon. Sale Mon.

**TORQUAY TREASURES:** English and foreign silver and plate on offer with fine jewellery. Look for two lovely shell cameo brooches and a similar bangle (est £300-£500). Beaume's, Torquay, Devon (0803 296277). Viewing Tues, Wed. Sale Thurs.

**SILVER SPECIAL:** Good collection of 19th-century ram's horn snuff muffs with silver mounts and tortoiseshell snuff box with hinged cover (£40-£60), and several silver-decorated perfume bottles from £50-£200. Phillips, Edinburgh (031 225 2266). Viewing Wed and Thurs. Sale Fri.

**PRINTED BOOKS:** Highly attractive botanical drawings in books sale covering literature and field sports as well as natural history. 37 colour plates by Bessa after Redoute hand-finished, 1806, (£300-£400). Christie's, South Kensington, London SW7 (01-581 7611). Viewing Wed, Thurs. Sale Fri.

## DANCE

**LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE:** Three new works in a special one-week season, by Kim Brandstrup, Aletta Collins and the American dancer JoAnn Frawley. The Place, London WC1 (01-3870031) Wed-Apr 21.

**ROYAL BALLET:** Tonight's *Prince of the Pagodas* is cancelled. Only two more performances this season (Wed, Thurs). *Giselle* (Fri). Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

**SCOTTISH BALLET:** Final week of the tour including Balanchine's *Who Cares?*. King's Theatre, Edinburgh (031-2291201) Tues-Apr 21.

**LONDON CITY BALLET:** A mixed bill including *Graduation Ball*. Opera House, Buxton (0298 72180) Wed, Thurs.

**BOLSHOI GROUP:** Bassmerova Swan Lake Act II. Marlowe, Canterbury (0227 787248) Sun, Mon; Mayflower, Southampton (0703 229771) Tues, Wed; New Theatre, Hull (0482 226855) Fri.

## JAZZ

Not all young jazz saxophonists are hard-line enthusiasts of 100-notes-to-the-bar displays of technique, or present an arrogant face to the public. One who is not is Scott Hamilton (right), an American tenorist who first made an impact on the scene about 10 years ago. His first visit to Britain, in the company of a like-minded fellow horn-player, Warren Vaché, came at a time when his kind of music might not have been expected to attract the crowds, but it proved very popular, and Hamilton is acknowledged now as one of the finest exponents of swing and mainstream jazz currently working. On his emergence he was an immediate success, but again unlike some of his contemporaries, he has remained likeable and maintained his appetite for development. A recent album release has happily led him to make a British visit, beginning next week. On Tuesday he will be at London's mainstream mecca, the Bull's Head, near Barnes Bridge, playing with pianist John Pearce, plus Paul Morgan and Alan Ganley. He moves into the basement of the Pizza Express in Dean Street, Soho on Friday, to play three nights. The latter is particularly appropriate, since it was there, under the aegis of the always-acute Peter Boizot, that Hamilton first played in London. The Pyramids, Southsea (0705 826666) Mon; Bull's Head, London SW13 (01-876 5241) Tues; Pizza Express, London W1 (01-439 8722) Fri-Sun 22.

**CHICO FREEMAN:** The neo-bop saxophonist is expected in town with his more accessible fusion group, Brainstorm, playing material from the live album *The Mystical Dreamer*. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (01-439 0747). Mon-Sat.

**FESTIVAL OF VOICE:** A six-day season includes Julie Tippett (Tues), blues singer Carol Grimes (Fri) and pop-soul sets by Ian Shaw and Sarah Jane Morris (Sat). Vortex Jazz Bar, London N16 (01-264 8516). Tues-Sun 22.

## CONCERTS

**WOLFGANG'S GLORY:** The City of London Sinfonia is conducted by Igor Kennaway in the Zauberköte Overture, Symphony No 40 and, with Sara Wolfensohn as soloist, the Piano Concerto K 488. Beethoven Centre, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Mon.

**DEFENDING SAMARITANS:** In aid of Samaritans Worldwide and Samaritans International, the highly accomplished young pianist Gordon Ferguson-Thompson gives a recital in memory of John Ogdon which includes the Bach-Busoni D



minor Toccata and Fugue, Scriabin's Sonata No 4, Rachmaninov's Sonata No 2, Debussy's *Estampes*, Liszt's *Fantasy and Fugue on B-A-C-H*. St John's, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Tues.

**CONCERTOS FOR TWO:** Aided and abetted by The Philharmonia under Semyon Bychkov, Kaba and Marielle Labèque offer a pair of little-known concertos for two pianos, by Mendelssohn and Bruch. Fore and aft: Bizet's youthful *Symphony in C* and Beethoven's unusual *Ritorno for Violin and Piano*, based on Bocherini.

Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham (0602 482626). Wed.

**THREE TRIOS:** Starting a new series built around Beethoven piano trios, the York Trio begins where he began, with the Trio Op 1 No 1, following up with Mozart's Trio K 564 and Dvořák's Trio Op 65. Blackheath Concert Hall, London SE3 (01-483 0100). Thurs.

**BOURNEMOUTH RITE:** Andrew Litton conducts the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in works including Stravinsky's rousing *Sacred Rites*. The Guildhall, Southampton. Fri.

## FILM

**THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER:** Large, lumbering, old-fashioned entertainment with Sean Connery as the commander of a Soviet submarine planning to defect to the West. Based on Tom Clancy's best-selling novel. Directed by John McTiernan. Empire (01-437 1234). From Wed.

**MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON (15):** Bob Fosse's spectacular account of Victorian explorers Burton and Speke searching for the source of the Nile, with Patrick Bergin, Ian Glen. Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111). From Fri.

**ROGER AND ME (15):** Michael Moore's rehashing, iconoclastic documentary about the effect of car factory closures on the director's home town (Flint, Michigan). Warner West End (07-438 0791) Canon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148). From Fri.

**SHOCKER (16):** Wearisome addition to the slasher film stockpile from writer-director Wes Craven; with Mitch Pileggi as the malevolent spirit of an executed mass killer. Cannon Panton Street (01-930 0631). From Fri.

**JAMES BALDWIN: THE PRICE OF THE TICKET (PG):** Powerful, documentary portrait about the American writer, directed by Karen Thorson. Riverside Studios (01-748 3354). From Fri.

**KOMITAS:** Visionary evocation of the life of an Armenian poet and composer, directed by Don Askarian. Plus two new animation shorts from the Quay Brothers. ICA Cinema (01-930 3647). From Fri.

## OPERA

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE:** Die *Meistersinger*, in a traditional production by John Cox, with Bernd Weikl as Hans Sachs. Well conducted by Christoph von Dohnanyi. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066). Mon.

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA:** A revival of *Ariadne on Naxos* conducted by Lionel Friend, with Anne Evans as Ariadne and actor Michael Horden in the speaking role of the Major. London Coliseum, London WC2 (01-636 3161). Fri.

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA:** An enthralling production of Verdi's *Macbeth* by David Pountney, superbly conducted by Mark Elder. London Coliseum (see above). Wed and Sat Apr 21.

**OPERA NORTH:** Revival of Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice*, which has been produced and designed by Philip Prowse. The cast includes Sally Burgess, and the conductor is Clive Finnis. Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 440871). Sat Apr 21.

## GALLERIES

**SYDNEY HARTLEY RA:** Fifteen new bronzes by a conservative figurative sculptor who is divided by critics but who frequently sells about £100,000 worth of casts at the Royal Academy Summer Show. Chris Beetles Gallery, London SW1 (01-839 7551). From Wed.

**ANDREJ JACKOWSKI:** Works by this gloomy, poetic landscape painter of growing reputation. Scott Gallery, Lancaster (0524 65201). From Fri.

**A NORTHERN SCHOOL:** Works by Lancashire artists since 1900, such as Harold Riley, Alan Lownes, Adrian Newland and inevitably, L.S. Lowry. Boundary Gallery, London NW8 (01-624 1128). From Fri.

## THEATRE

**ALICE'S DINER:** Improvisation/hairstreak show with Ben Barnes, Roddy Meade, Robby, Michael Mullins and Jeremy Brockwell. Bush Theatre, London W12 (01-743 3388). Preview from Tues. Opens Fri.

**CAROUSEL:** Stewart Trober directs the Rogers and Hammerstein musical, with Chris Howard, Penelope Medley and Gail Morley. Quarry Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds (0532 442111). Preview from Fri. Opens Apr 24.

**THE COMEDY OF ERRORS:** RSC Stratford. Ian Judge directs cast including Emma Kohler, Graham Turner and David Waller. RSC, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 255628). Preview from Thurs. Opens Apr 25.

**GRAVE PLOTS:** London premiere of 1988 Edinburgh Fringe First winner, by David Kane. Billy McCall in a black farce set in 1925. Old Red Lion, London (01-332 3053). Preview from Tues. Opens Fri.

**IN SHINING AND IN SHADOW:** Mersey Inc present Alan Osborne's latest play. From the company which brought us *House of America*. Battersea Arts Centre, Old Town Hall, London SW11 (01-225 2223). Opens Wed.

**TROILUS AND CRESSIDA:** Simon Russell Beale, Alfred Burke, Paul Jesson, David Threlkington, Norman Rodway, Sally Dwyer, John Warnaby, Ralph Fiennes and Amanda Root. Sam Mendes directs. Swan, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 255628). Preview from Wed. Opens Apr 28.

**VANILLA:** Joanna Lumley, Glen Phillips, and Charlotte Cornwell directed by Harold Pinter in a comedy of money and social climbing, set in contemporary New York, by Jane Stanton Hitchcock. Touring to Theatre Royal, Bath, Swan Lyric, Shatfordbury Avenue, Theatre Royal, Brighton (0273 28488). Opens Mon. Until Apr 28.

## The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword

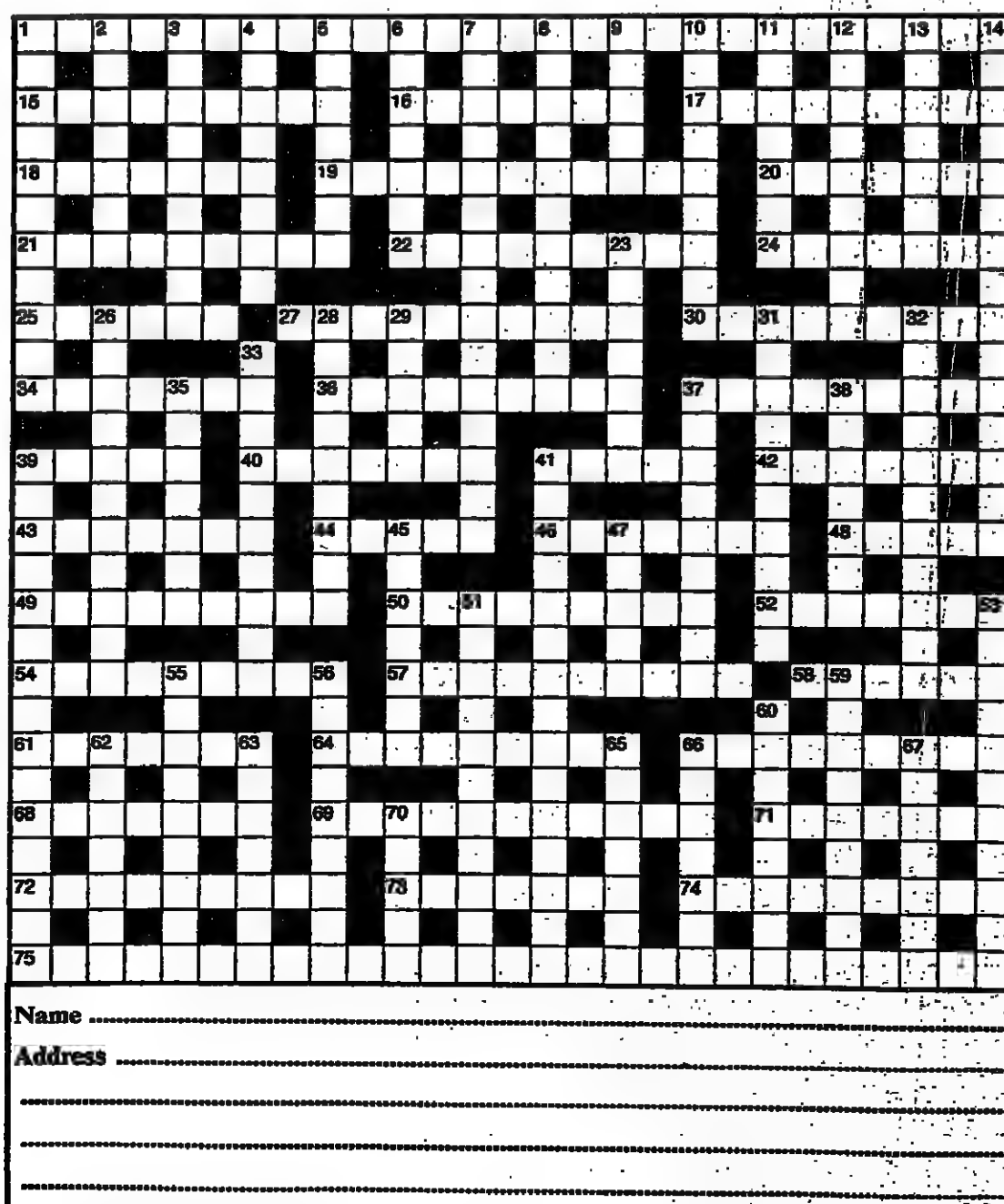
## ACROSS

- 1 Title of Byron's relation of Assyrian descent (3,11,2,1,1).
- 15 Columbine for instance, one captured by the Roman eagle (9).
- 16 Seventy per cent of Johnson's work in a manner of speaking (7).
- 17 Call a giant without one for part in morality play (9).
- 18 Root vegetable about to be hidden in a woman's garment (7).
- 19 Being one was Major Barbara's father's religion (11).
- 20 Safe mostly holds a form of oil made from leaf-stalk (7).
- 21 Found guilty of having steered round the sea in reverse (9).
- 22 Write play about violin-maker captured by turbulent reds (9).
- 24 Those looking for leaders of king's embassy among the prophets (7).
- 25 It's about sins needing correction - brook no denial (6).
- 27 A little talk with a girl - one carrying house-keys etc (10).
- 30 Some bright spark calls it in wrongly (9).
- 34 The lion represented in old stone (7).
- 36 Leave undone, or allow to soak inside (9).
- 37 Actor gets by with late finish (9).
- 39 Time in the bar - maybe time without one by the river (5).
- 40 Senior officer follows classical customs in the dance (7).
- 41 Gaze wide-eyed, say, seeing one in flight (5).
- 42 Did wrong about royalty getting fleeced (7).
- 43 501 such clergymen on the board (7).
- 44 Like Aaron's calf beheld in such bygone days (5).
- 46 One killed from time to time "pour encourager les autres" (7).
- 48 One's in the drink in a way in church (5).
- 49 Peter gets nice shake-up from an earthquake here (9).
- 50 Like leading ballerina in endless tears from stern reproof (9).
- 52 Make this old vessel retire in disorder holding Medusa's head (7).
- 54 Like Peter Pan or a staunch supporter of the environment (9).
- 57 Where Trollope's Towers refuse to admit Marmion's charger (10).
- 58 Father's eminence as a priest (6).
- 61 In High Church feature we see how Muses affect us (7).
- 64 Russia's central form of transport (9).
- 66 Slight disruption of paradise about midnight (9).
- 68 An attendant receives article as a natural attribute (7).
- 69 Manages to give notice to clergymen (11).
- 71 Delight, with inclination to go topless (7).
- 72 Like the upper strata, too gin-fuddled (9).
- 73 Ruth in the field of Boaz beginning to get less fat (7).
- 74 A case runs out of guarantee (9).
- 75 States irregularities have not been brought to book or why "One man's meat etc" (6,2,10,3,6).

## DOWN

- 1 Movement of North Star before battle has a deal of significance (11).
- 2 New outline of a washing process (7).
- 3 Producers of bigger pictures (9).
- 4 The sting deviously thus intensifies its grip (8).
- 5 In Paris Venus appears so defenceless (7).
- 6 Fleet Street barber went ahead - with infantile gait (7).
- 7 Phoebe so very rarely sad? (4,2,1,4,4).
- 8 One mistrial needs correction, eastern style (11).
- 9 We hear Jolson's boy is a Muslim (5).
- 10 It was all the same in days of yore (9).
- 11 A sport upset about nothing - that's fate (7).
- 12 A beer that somehow gets one's circulation going (5-4).
- 13 It's about a flower that left the bed a second time (7).
- 14 Hammer away at the main game in SW London (9,6).
- 23 Unwillingness to move in one rate revision (7).
- 26 Its operation depends on some fall in the currency supply (4-7).
- 28 Boy helper wrong - making a mountain out of a molehill (9).
- 29 "where you sit, shall crowd into a shade" (Pope) (5).
- 31 Infirm of purpose, retire in confusion with inner soul distressed (10).
- 32 Shining example of a clue for "exclusion" (11).
- 33 Round the East a drug-dealer, note, appears in female garb (10).
- 35 In this variety of element I therefore drink a lot (7).
- 37 First of a number of Yuletide gifts (9).
- 38 Japanese art shows up The Butterfly Stage including The Island State (7).
- 39 Those accompanied by Montmorency on the Thames (5,3,2,1,4).
- 41 An Iberian Joe Miller? (7,8).
- 45 Bad rule needs amendment to be of lasting value (7).
- 47 Signifies "wherewithal" (5).
- 51 Motel gives an example of Humpty Dumpty's philological baggage (11).
- 53 Its importance has been dramatically demonstrated (11).
- 55 King George is having trouble with the French stained glass window (9).
- 56 Wishing to get back a gain lost perhaps (9).
- 59 Song about a high-class car or a tree (9).
- 60 Jenny? Or one employed by the rates department (8).
- 62 A brief line in part of a play that describes a triangle (7).
- 63 Senate worried about one such wind in the Mediterranean (7).
- 65 Pole run disorganized by a bit of an insect (7).
- 66 Some balladist afflicted by the spinner's rod (7).
- 67 Opposing the Turkish commander in a way (7).
- 70 "casements, opening on the foam Of perilous seas" (Keats) (3).

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, May 1, 1990. Entries should be sent to The Times Easter Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, May 5.



SOLUTION TO NO 2152 (yesterday's concise crossword)

ACROSS: 8 Gestapo 9 Usual 10 Noh 11 Beelzebub 12 Snail 14 Nucleus 17 Monocle 19 Vegan 22 Colourful 24 Sap 25 U-boat 26 Realise

DOWN: 1 Agents 2 Asthma 3 Carbolic 4 Come under fire 5 Quiz 6 Bubble 7 Globes 13 Neo 15 Civilian 16 USA 17 Mock-up 18 Nelson 20 Gossip 21 Nephew 23 Up to

The winners of prize concise No 2152 are: Michael Nixon, London W10; Mrs J. Caddy, Barton-on-Sea, New Milton, Hampshire.

SOLUTION TO NO 2147 (last Saturday's prize concise)

ACROSS: 1 Nicely 4 Scum 7 Web 9 Ammonia 10 Otter 11 Brainstorming 12 Mistrusts 16 Squamishness 19 Enter 20 Tempter 21 Spy 22 Tree 23 Adorer

DOWN: 1 Nearby 2 Comma 3 Linings 5 Calkins 6 Mirage 7 Walter 8 Mitty 9 Boar 12 Mountie 13 Schemed 14 Aspect 15 Usurer 17 Ains 18 Ester

## Concise Jumbo

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear on Monday

## ACROSS

- 1 1939 rationing (3,6,3,6,3,3,3)
- 15 Provide amusement (9)
- 16 Legally valid (2,5)
- 17 Main grocery (6,3)
- 18 Sulphate of mercury (7)
- 19 Gift of tongues (11)
- 20 Spinner (7)
- 21 Sang loudly (6,3)
- 22 Softened by soaking (9)
- 24 Involve in conflict (7)
- 25 Fjords (6)
- 27 Soil enhancer (10)
- 30 Using up (9)
- 34 Sit-up tub (7)
- 36 Pub server (9)
- 37 Expiation (9)
- 39 Facilitates (5)
- 40 Take back (7)
- 41 Harmonious sounds (5)
- 42 Make clear (7)
- 43 Find source (5,2)
- 44 Failure (5)
- 46 Declined (7)
- 48 Eight musicians group (5)
- 49 Sickened (9)
- 50 Skilled woodworker (9)
- 52 Sick (3,4)
- 54 Wicked sorceress (4,5)
- 57 Shakily (10)
- 58 Potemkin - tiny base (6)
- 61 Wild marjoram (7)
- 64 Racing sledge (9)
- 66 Stretch too far (9)
- 68 Latent (7)
- 69 Lack of remorse (11)
- 71 Forgiver (7)
- 72 Native Australian (9)
- 73 In womb (7)
- 74 Horse girth (9)
- 75 All conceivable things (10,3,3,7,4)

## DOWN

- 1 Put back in place (2,9)
- 2 Normal (7)
- 3 Accord (9)
- 4 Ski-shoot contest (8)
- 5 This evening (7)
- 6 Regular (7)
- 7 Duetway (6,9)
- 8 Broke in and stole (11)
- 9 Perfection (5)
- 10 In the act (3,6)
- 11 Timidity (2,5)
- 12 Not edible (9)
- 13 Italian rice dish (7)
- 14 Innative feeling (7,8)
- 23 Bullfighters (7)
- 26 Brilliant blue gem (5,6)
- 28 Engaged in conflict (9)
- 29 Earth (5)
- 31 Carrying on (10)
- 32 Lack of precision (11)
- 33 Temperature maintainer (10)
- 35 Stern, severe (7)
- 37 Inherited from forefathers (9)
- 38 Notable dead (7)
- 39 Friendly understanding (7,8)
- 41 Blue Angel star (7,8)
- 45 Give in (7)
- 47 Destined (5)
- 51 Glorious (11)
- 53 US Marine (11)
- 55 Expression of regret (4,1,4)
- 56 Western Islander (9)
- 59 Course (9)
- 60 Explorative study (8)
- 62 Lower ear (7)
- 63 Reality evader (7)
- 65 Harass husband (7)
- 66 Excess type (7)
- 67 African spear (7)
- 70 Builder's perpendicular (5)















**By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent**

Not being the superstitious type, Lenci felt it had little to do with the date. Friday 13, it said after suffering a delay for rain was called off. On Friday 13, the building site and a quarter-finished deluxe match.

With cranes swinging overhead and distracted by the adjoining court the world No. 1 yelled out: "I hate this place!" His temper was not helped by a slippery surface, the massive lights, two breaks for rain and

and the competition's latest stages today.

He played the last of his 112 internationals two years ago, and would like nothing better than to leave England as a member of the most successful

**By Nicholas Harding**  
and the competition's latter stages today.  
He played the last of his 112

### From a Correspondent

Leadi expected that the slight shoulder strain would not stop him from meeting either Michael Chang or Aaron Krickorian in today's semi-final. When the weather finally made up its mind to pour down and end the day's proceedings, Krickorian was leading the French Open champion 7-6, 1-0. In the other semi-final Brad Gilbert will face Andre Agassi.

NAIROBI (Reuter) — Björn Waldegård, of Sweden, and Massimo Biasion, of Italy, yesterday led a severely depleted field towards the mountains for the Kenya Safari rally.

**Kenya and back to Nairobi.**  
**Torrential rain, deep pools**  
 of water and tracheoses mud have taken a heavy toll on Thursday's first stage of the five-day, 1,181km race. Despite a thin extension after a group of calves bogged down in a mud hole 25 of the 38 starters retired or were disqualified by the end of the day for failing to complete sections within the time limit.

**LEADING POSITIONS** (after 18 km):  
 1. M. Wainwright (GB), 2. M. Wainwright (GB), 3. M. Wainwright (GB), 4. M. Wainwright (GB), 5. M. Wainwright (GB), 6. M. Wainwright (GB), 7. M. Wainwright (GB), 8. M. Wainwright (GB), 9. M. Wainwright (GB), 10. M. Wainwright (GB), 11. M. Wainwright (GB), 12. M. Wainwright (GB), 13. M. Wainwright (GB), 14. M. Wainwright (GB), 15. M. Wainwright (GB), 16. M. Wainwright (GB), 17. M. Wainwright (GB), 18. M. Wainwright (GB), 19. M. Wainwright (GB), 20. M. Wainwright (GB), 21. M. Wainwright (GB), 22. M. Wainwright (GB), 23. M. Wainwright (GB), 24. M. Wainwright (GB), 25. M. Wainwright (GB), 26. M. Wainwright (GB), 27. M. Wainwright (GB), 28. M. Wainwright (GB), 29. M. Wainwright (GB), 30. M. Wainwright (GB), 31. M. Wainwright (GB), 32. M. Wainwright (GB), 33. M. Wainwright (GB), 34. M. Wainwright (GB), 35. M. Wainwright (GB), 36. M. Wainwright (GB), 37. M. Wainwright (GB), 38. M. Wainwright (GB).

On. To Paul Stimpson, the tournament carried a little extra significance.

The most capped England player will probably be participating in his last major game in Britain today, if an appearance in the 1980 World Cup in Spain is not possible. Stimpson, 30, who recently celebrated his 20th birthday, expects to take up a post as basketball manager with Leisure, a sports marketing company in London, Switzerland.

Stimpson, the father of twins, is the oldest of three children.

On the club side over "Obviously I'm sad," he said, "but it is nice to go out knowing that I have helped to make a bit more history."

Only the Scots Stars team of 1980-81 won the trophy, but the cup and the last monopolised England basketball as much as Kingston have this season.

Under the coaching of Kevin Stimpson, who was already won the league cup, West trophy and WIBC tournament. Only the play-offs remained as the players prepared for the conclusion to the club's season.

The club was not remotely like the present Palace that has threatened with extinction, but the Palace of Dean Lloyd, now the assistant England coach, Jeremiah, Roma, John, Stimpson, McCray, and Byrd, who is Kingston's new assistant.

Stimpson is a young man, but so is this Kingston squad," Stimpson reflected. "It's hard to say which was best." Either way

[illegible]

**SELDON PARK HOTEL**  
Sanderstead, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8YA Tel: 01-657 8811

**HOCKEY**

**EASTER WEEKEND FESTIVALS (until Monday):** Bournemouth; Canterbury; Clacton; Cornwall (women); Folesstone International; Formby; Guernsey; Jersey; NatWest Blackpool; Penzance; Scarborough; Torbay; Weston-super-Mare.

**STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP:** Sheffield v Hull (at Bramall Lane, 6.30).

**BASKETBALL**

**NATIONAL LEAGUE:** First division (men):  
Play-offs: Fleet, first leg: Bridon-Crystal

## OTHER SPORT

**CANOEING:** Devices to Westminster  
Maritime Festival (Chelsea, national cham-  
pionship) (Granville, Twynckle).

**MOTOR SPORT:** British Open (Racing  
club, championship) (Piddington, Bedfordshire).

**ORIENTEERING:** TSB Jan Kleistrom  
International Festival (Perth, Dunleath and  
Fife).

**SNOOKER:** Embassy world championship  
(London).

**SOFTBALL:** National Open tournament  
Fife (Richmond upon Thames Club).

**SQUASH:** H-Ten British Open (Wembley).

**VOLLEYBALL:** England v Switzerland  
International Challenge Cup (Nuremberg ses-  
sion) (Bromley Leisure Centre, Acton,  
London).

**CANOEING:** Duntz to Westminster  
canoeing regatta (Victoria  
championship (Strandilly, Tyne))

**MOTOR SPORT:** British Douglas Flash  
championship (Podington, Bedfordshire)

**ORIENTEERING:** TSB Jan Kjellstrom  
International Festival (Perth, Dundalk and  
Fife)

**SWIMMER:** Embassy world championship  
(Perth)

**FOOTBALL:** National Open tournament  
Final (Richmond upon Avon Sports Club)

**SQUASH:** Hec-Net British Open (Wembley)

**VOLLEYBALL:** England v Switzerland  
men's Challenge Cup (three-match series  
at Bromley Leisure Centre, Acton,  
London)



The Times examines the lessons arising from the tragedy of Hillsborough whose first anniversary falls tomorrow

# A case of post-disaster depression

By David Miller

The saddening feeling, as I walked among the dead on the Hillsborough pitch and talked to survivors, was that this beautiful game had taken another step in which it was the instrument of evil instead of good.

Quite apart from the awfulness of the unavoidable sense of shared guilt at the deaths of predominantly young and innocent people, the sport to which I have devoted a large part of my life, voluntarily and professionally, had been further blackened in the eyes of the world. The negative aspects of the game had become an avalanche.

Yet there was also the feeling of anger, because those of us close to the game knew, without Solomon's wisdom, that the disaster had been avoidable. The reports of Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry, comprehensive and intelligent, are not vested with some divine light of explanation or recommendation, but they are in the main simply strutting truths, expressed

in previous reports such as Justice Popplewell's, that have persistently been ignored.

The idea that Hillsborough was safe when full, a view complacently held by Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, the Football Association and the Football League, and presumably by the police, was a nonsense if anyone paused to consider the chemistry of an equation common throughout the British game: overcrowding + alcohol + emotion = violence.

I am well aware that the influence of alcohol in the Sheffield catastrophe is doubted, and that there was no deliberate intended violence of one person on another in the crush, which resulted in death. The mood of offended innocence, however, among supporters — and gross inefficiency by senior police officers — was justified in mourning the dead, yet tended to overlook the fact that almost all the conditions surrounding the match, in terms of traffic and seat segregation, coincidental aspects

of which conspired towards the disaster, were the product of regular experience of the equation. This is not to suggest that spectators themselves dug the grave, but their collective element of involvement must be equated alongside deficiencies by police and football authorities. The predominantly innocent who died at the front of the enclosure — arriving early with picnic — are not the kind against whom police precautions, however misguided on that day, are directed.

What depressed me on a horrific sunny afternoon was that much that might have been done in

THE TIMES

Accusations of incompetence after Britain's worst soccer disaster

## Police in 'open gate' inquiry

The front page of The Times on April 17, 1989

preceding years had been ignored. The worst offence was that every-one involved in the game, excluding spectators, had persistently benefited from an encouragement of the excessive enthusiasm of those spectators.

British Rail laid on old rolling-stock special trains to transport them; public houses and the football clubs themselves gleefully laded out the beer; the players were allowed to indulge in scandalous behaviour, both against each other and in the calculated incitement of the spectators, while simultaneously milking the game with exorbitant wages; the police

earned useful overtime patrolling the streets and crowds and found it convenient to treat them like cattle; club directors, the FA and League, club managers and the police did nothing to discourage obscene, malevolent chanting; directors paid absurd players' wages out of vanity rather than reality; clubs refused economically to share grounds out of vainglory; the FA condoned repeated violence with inadequate discipline against persistently malevolent clubs; newspapers voyeuristically played up violence and hired players to write ghosted provocative trash; and FIFA did nothing,

by any adjustment to the rules, to protect skill and creativity at the expense of violent play.

Today, one year on, the national team typifies English hypocrisy: complaining about Maradona's handled goal but jumping to justify Pearce handling on the line against Brazil.

The fabric of the game, not alone in Britain but merely more so, was in decay, in spite of still retaining that quality which at any unpredictable moment can inspire and delight. The strength of football is that it has a mass appeal which is capable of surviving the worst excesses which that appeal generates. Audience figures at the World Cup this summer will prove that. Like the main human forces which motivate man — money, power, sex and religion — football is simultaneously capable of creating joy and perverting reason. Hillsborough, 1989, was the ultimate loss of control.

What is depressing, a year later, is that common sense seems still to escape some of those in charge of the game. Nothing better illus-

trates this than, ironically, the city of Sheffield itself, where the two League clubs still refuse to share a stadium, or even utilize the new stadium being built for the World Student Games. So long as this mentality continues, England has no chance of acquiring a multipurpose stadium such as those in Dusseldorf and Cologne, Turin and Rome.

The latest budget may be putting £100 million back into football, yet for all the improvements that will follow, aided by the Football Trust, the English game will be throwing good money after bad; and will not possess a single club with an all-seater capacity greater than 40,000.

Would you, if not brought up, say, on the tradition and history of Arsenal, even consider going to an out-of-date ground surrounded by dingy, dirty streets, with no parking and minimal food facilities? By the time English football adjusts to the twentieth century, we will already be in the 21st.

MARC ASPLAND

## Death knell sounds for the breeding grounds of violence

By John Goodbody

HILLSBOROUGH taught football a violent lesson, but it has yet to be seen whether the lesson will be learnt. The reports of Lord Justice Taylor pointed the way for the game to progress, so that spectators could watch in safety and comfort.

Taylor did not disguise his disgust at some of the facilities he found. His spate of old grounds, hooliganism, poor leadership and excessive drinking, disgusting football. He implied that the Sheffield tragedy could have happened almost anywhere.

He said: "At some grounds the lavatories are primitive in design, poorly maintained and inadequate in number. This not only denies the spectator an essential facility he is entitled to expect, it directly lowers standards of conduct."

"The practice of urinating against walls, or even on terraces, has become endemic and is followed by men who would not behave that way elsewhere," he said.

The refreshments available to supporters are often limited or of indifferent quality," he continued. "This inhospitable scene tends to breed bad manners and poor behaviour. The atmosphere does not encourage pride in the ground or consideration for others."

It also encourages hooliganism. As Richard Faulkner, the deputy chairman of the Football Trust, has pointed out, hooliganism may not have caused the Hillsborough disaster, but it was the backdrop against which the tragedy occurred.

If there were not the threat of pitch invasions then there would not have been perimeter fencing at Sheffield. If football were free from violence, then segregation would also have been unnecessary and the Liverpool supporters could have entered through other entrances and mingled with the followers of Nottingham Forest.

Taylor condemned some club managements for "chilling complacency" and being more concerned with "board-room power-struggles and wheeler-dealing" than with their supporters, who for too long have been regarded as fodder for the turnstiles.

Taylor called for a completely new approach. "The years of patching up grounds, of having periodic disasters and narrowly avoiding many others by muddling through on a wing and a prayer must be over."

He recommended that English first and second division clubs should become all-seater by August 1994, and others by August 1999. This may have the advantage of preventing overcrowding, but it will severely cut the capacity attendances. The leading clubs may have to respond by dramatically increasing the cost of tickets for attractive fixtures to raise the same level of revenue as they received when the capacity was higher because of standing room.

Taylor also proposed that spillover should be removed from stands, which should be no higher than 2.2 metres with petrolled emergency gates. The closure of gates at Hillsborough contributed to the scale of the disaster.

To the delight of everyone in football, but not to the Prime Minister or Colin Moynihan, the Minister for

Sport, Taylor also opposed the introduction of the identity card scheme, stating that it might actually increase trouble outside grounds.

Despite its evident irritation on having to agree with Taylor's recommendation, the Government did recognize that football did not have the finance to carry out the main recommendation of Taylor over all-seater stadiums.

The Football Trust, funded by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters, the pools companies, from spot-the-ball competition had already promised about £70-million over the next 10 years to help.

However, the Government realized that this would not be adequate for clubs faced with total bills of £200 million and decided to cut the tax on football pools betting by 2.5 per cent to 40 per cent, so releasing an estimated £100 million over the next five years for ground improvements.

The Government has told the Football Trust that it wants the money to be spent on new grounds and stands. However, the Trust will only give a percentage towards the cost of new facilities.

Many clubs are badly positioned, often in city centres and with insufficient room to develop facilities for other activities. Except for those with artificial turf, the grounds of most English League clubs are used barely 30 times a year.

Not one English League ground has an athletics track around the pitch, as is commonplace abroad, and supporters dislike ground-sharing, which is also widespread on the Continent.

Those club directors with the foresight to wish to move out of the original grounds, most of which were built either in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries, frequently run into problems with local authorities.



The men who directed Liverpool's recovery from the disaster: Smith (left) and Robinson, chairman and chief executive of the club respectively

## A red rose for every life that was lost

By John Goodbody

FOR Sir John Smith, the chairman of Liverpool Football Club, the tragedy at Hillsborough on April 15 last year immediately brought back memories of the Hysel disaster four years earlier. It seemed as if fate had selected the most successful team in England to be engulfed by yet more grief.

Yet Hillsborough had an even more traumatic effect than Hysel, not just because more people died. "It was closer to home," Sir John says. "It was more personal. Terrible though Hysel was, we felt Hillsborough even more."

The FA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest should have produced one of the most exciting afternoons of the season. Instead, 95 people died.

Sir John sat, like many spectators at Sheffield, unable to perceive the nature of the disaster: he thought there was "crowd encroachment, as had happened at important games before. People had no idea of the enormity of the disaster that had unfolded." Sir John and Peter Robinson, Liverpool's chief executive, had to watch, powerless to assist the supporters escape from the overcrowded terraces and spill on to the pitch.

Fathers sitting in the stands were forced to see their sons, who had preferred to stand on the terraces, being crushed. Supporters watched friends and colleagues being carried away on stretchers.

Hillsborough was different from most disasters: unlike, for example, the Lockerbie air crash and the Zebrugge ferry sinking, it was shown almost as it happened throughout the world on television; it had, Sir John feels, an immediate international impact.

Sir John and Robinson went down from the directors' box to the running track surrounding the pitch as the dead and injured were carried on stretchers towards the hospitals or makeshift mortuaries. The pair had to begin the overwhelming task of directing the club's recovery from the disaster.

Yet, Sir John and Robinson say, from the disaster came some good. There was a rallying of forces that united the city. Social workers, charities, the churches and the supporters combined to help the mourning families. The club gave all its profit from the FA Cup Final to charities, most of which were involved in the disaster.

The club has also felt an even greater desire and need to become involved in its own community: it had started before Hillsborough but the disaster accelerated it.

It has appointed a full-time community officer; there are regular meetings with the Liverpool branch of the Football Supporters' Association; there are functions for pensioners. Friendships have been formed between the bereaved and the players, friendships that have lasted. And the club has been supplementing the work of the Hillsborough Disaster Advice Centre in helping supporters traumatized from the disaster to get used to returning to football.

However, a crucial consequence of the disaster must be the implementation of the Taylor Report. Robinson is adamant: "We must never lose another life on an English football ground. Football is not worth one life."

It is unlikely that the two Merseyside clubs will share any proposed new stadium in the North-West. The value of the present sites of the two clubs would be minimal after their destruction, possibly not even £1 million each. They certainly could not afford

the estimated £120m for the new venue.

Instead, Liverpool decided well before the Taylor inquiry to install seating on the Kop to make Anfield an all-seater stadium. There are difficulties in altering the ground, but it is hoped to be completed by 1992, the centenary of the club.

At 2.45pm tomorrow, a year after the tragic events of Hillsborough, there will be a memorial service at Anfield. The Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, the Catholic Archbishop and the Moderator of the Free Churches will combine to take the service on the pitch with a congregation of an estimated 30,000 people in the stands. Mrs. Nessie Shankly, the widow of the former Liverpool manager, will unveil a memorial to the dead.

At 3.06pm, 95 red roses will be laid on the pitch in memory of those who died and the congregation will sing the Anfield anthem, *You'll Never Walk Alone*. For many of the relatives of the dead, it will be their first visit to the ground since the days immediately after the disaster. As they remember those who died in British football's worst disaster, they will pray that it will never happen again.

### SQUASH RACKETS

## Jahangir standing alone in a matter of family pride

By Colin McQuillan

JAHANGIR Khan has dominated world squash for a decade. He has met and defeated the best the game could throw at him and he remains the world No. 1. Yet there has never been a more important period in his career than the 10 days which begin today at the Pinnacle Club in Richmond, to continue at Lambie Club on Wednesday and are due to culminate at Wembley on Monday, April 23.

Jahangir is using the Emirates International Masters event at the Pinnacle to tune up for his defence of the HSBC British Open championship, which starts for him at Lambie against Jamie Hickox, of England. His ambitions for sporting immortality rest on the success of that tuning, which for the first time takes the controlling presence of Rahmat Khan, the cousin, coach and career-long nemesis from whom Jahangir publicly separated himself this season.

Jahangir has won the British Open eight times since he lost the 1981 final to Geoff Hunt, the great Australian champion whose spectre he hopes to finally dismiss in these 1990 championships. A ninth successive victory on the Perspex court at Wembley Conference Centre would surpass the record for victories in the British Open that Hunt still shares with the 26-year-old Pakistani.

"The British Open has always been the biggest event for me," said Jahangir, whose record also includes wins at the World Open, a 500-match undefeated

### Seedings

1. Jahangir Khan (Pakistan); 2. J. Pringle (Scotland); 3. C. Robertson (Australia); 4. C. Robertson (Australia); 5. R. Martin (Australia); 6. M. Z. Ghal (Pakistan); 7. U. H. Khan (Pakistan); 8. R. Martin (New Zealand); 9. R. Martin (Australia); 10. R. Eyles (Australia); 11. D. Hanks (England); 12. M. Jackson (Scotland); 13. B. Bennett (England); 14. P. Kenyon (England); 15. R. Ward (New Zealand); 16. F. Johnson (Sweden).

run lasting five and a half years, after that 1981 loss to Hunt, and a two-year domination of the hardball game in North America.

"My uncle, Hashim Khan, won seven times from 1951; my father, Rodney, won in 1957 and another uncle, Azam, won four times from 1959. It is a matter of family pride to take the record back to Pakistan."

Another family of Khans from Pakistan have an interest too. They have produced Jahangir, the gangling 20-year-old who now holds the world title and is quickly preparing at Surges Club in west London. The Martin family, meanwhile, have sent their sons, Brett and Rodney, from Australia to prepare at Caversham.

Jahangir arrived on the international scene in 1987 and has since pursued Jahangir through 27 major confrontations to lead narrowly, 14-13. He is the second favourite and a Wembley final against Jahangir would eclipse the rest of their careers.

"But the British Open is not a lucky tournament for me,"

Jahangir protested with a defiant smile. "I lost to Jahangir in the 1987 final, to Rodney in the 1988 quarters and to Chris Robertson in last year's quarter. Somehow I always seem to find trouble at the British Open."

There are theorists of sporting conspiracy who see Jahangir losing in the semi-finals this time, after beating whichever Australian emerges to challenge Jahangir from a demanding quarter that includes both Martin brothers, Chris Robertson and the improving Rodney Eyles.

Rodney Martin is the favoured candidate, after losing to Jahangir in the last two British Open finals. Another five-year challenge of last year's epic proportions would see the 3,000-strong audience at Wembley, which sold out weeks ago in anticipation.

Before that eventuality can arise, an unusually isolated Jahangir must deal with Hickox, either Philip Kenyon or Ross Norman, the New Zealander who ended his undefeated run in the 1986 world final, and then probably Chris Dittmar, the leading Australian who defeated him twice in the world championships last October.

But it may be the internal pressures of the most important ambition of an extraordinary competitive career that prove to be the most serious opponent. For the man who needs one more win to be officially recorded as the greatest squash player of all time.

### FISHING

## Farlow's fit to tackle the next 150 years

By Conrad Voss Bark

ONE of our oldest fishing tackle shops, Farlow's, of Pall Mall, London, is celebrating its 150th anniversary. The business was started in Crooked Lane, in the City of London, by Charles Farlow in 1840 "to supply the Angling Brotherhood of the nobility, gentry and public at large."

For many years the shop was in the Strand, then St James's Square, then Pall Mall, then in the corner of the Royal Opera Arcade and Pall Mall, making sure the centre of clubland was a fishing centre as well, with Farlow's at one end of Pall Mall and Hardy's at the other.

Many other tackle shops have come and gone — Milwards, Carters, Ogden Smiths and others — but no one can say how Farlow's survived. Now it looks strong enough for another 150 years.

A limited edition of 7H 10in cane fly rods are being made for Farlow's by Partridge, of Redditch. They will have two tops, a mahogany presentation

case and will be sold to celebrate the anniversary at £325 each, a collectors' bargain. Farlow's have all their early catalogues in store at their head office at Cirencester and it's an eye-opener to read about the rods, reels and lines used by our great-great-grandfathers.

You could buy a three-joint hickory trout rod for 7s 6d (about 37p), but a "fancy" bamboo trout rod was only 2s (10p). There was a tremendous choice of salmon rods all made of hickory. A four-joint ringer rod with which fishing, socket spear and bag cost 20s for a 16ft rod, 25s for a 17ft rod, and 30s for an 18ft rod.

Fansies for creels were 3s 6d. A 20-yard fly line for trout, with a patent taper made from a mix of silk and hair would set you back 1s 6d, a bank of silkworm gut for your collar or cast would be either 6d or 9d. To put all these prices into perspective, however, the average agricultural wage in those days was about 10d or 15s a week and a city clerk might start work at around 15s a week.

### FENCING

## Birmingham potential

WITH nearly 400 competitors and £2,000-worth of sponsorship, the Birmingham international tournament this weekend should make progress towards a prominent place on the international circuit (Lesley Drennan writes).

British success can be expected in the foil and sabre events from Linda Strachan, the No. 1 in the women's foil, and Donnie McKenzie in the men's.

### EQUESTRIANISM

## World Cup develops into a battle between champions

From Jenny MacArthur, Dortmund

WITH the World Cup almost certain to go to Europe for the first time since 1979, tonight's second leg of the competition is set to be a conflict between the European champions. John Whitaker with Henderson Milton, the leaders after Thursday night's first leg, and the Olympic champions, Pierre Durand and Jappeau, from France, who are lying a close second.

The highest-placed American rider is Tony Font on Lego, who is in tenth place. To date, no rider outside the top eight after the first competition has won.

Despite the physical differences between the horses of the European and Olympic champions — the grey Milton is

four inches taller than the diminutive black 15.1hh French horse — the two riders have much in common. Both have been runners-up to the Canadian, Ian Millar, in the World Cup — Durand in 1988 and Whitaker last year in Florida. Both are confident that they can win this week — a confidence bolstered by having the "worst part" over.

The two horses, who have been European champions, jump better the bigger the course and tonight's one round and two jump-offs format, followed by Monday's grand prix final, should suit them. "My aim is to keep as close to Whitaker as possible and hope he makes a

mistake," Durand said yesterday. If either of the leaders makes an error, the Frenchman, Hervé Godignon, and Whitaker's younger brother, Michael, lying third and fourth respectively, will be quick to take advantage. These two had a fence down in the second leg, adding six seconds on to their times, but because of their scores — five seconds faster than Milton — they remained in contention.

It is a measure of John Whitaker's superb judgement that he won on Thursday without needing to go faster. "It's always difficult to judge how fast to go in the first competition," he said afterwards. "I thought I might not have gone fast enough."

Whitaker praised the course designer, Olaf Petersen, who, as with his Olympic courses in Seoul in 1988 and the European championships last year, gave the riders no let-up from start to finish.

Millar lying in twelfth place after the first leg, Henderson Milton in 15th, and Whitaker's younger brother, Michael, lying third and fourth respectively, will be quick to take advantage. These two had a fence down in the second leg, adding six seconds on to their times, but because of their scores — five seconds faster than Milton — they remained in contention.

It is a measure of John Whitaker's superb judgement that he won on Thursday without needing to go faster. "It's always difficult to judge how fast to go in the first competition," he said afterwards. "I thought I might not have gone fast enough."

## Strong Brigstock field

BRIGSTOCK Horse Trials, near Kettering, today and tomorrow traditionally heralds the coming of Badminton and is where many top British riders make full use of a testing track as a final preparation for the Whitbread three-day event (a Special Correspondent writes).

Virginia Leng, the world champion, heads the list of some 180 horses in the advanced classes tomorrow. She is fresh from her success at Belton last weekend, when she beat some strong international competition during her first cross-country sortie with Master Craftsman since their European championship victory last September. She also rides Griffin.

Ian Stark, Mary Thomson and Mark Phillips all had falls at Belton and will be looking to redress the situation at Brigstock. Lucinda Green is back in contention, with a promising new partner and Gean lookalike in Arcus Square, while Rodney Powell, Karen Straker and Anne Marie Taylor are also in with a chance.

The strongest overseas contenders must be the New Zealanders with six riders, headed by Mark Todd, with three horses — and Andrew Nicholson, who has been consistently placed this year, as well as the six United States challengers, headed by Mike Huber and Cindy Collier, both regular competitors.











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## TRAVEL

In the second of our Great Cities series, Philip Jacobson rehearses the incomparable charms of Paris — as well as the legendary rudeness of the locals

# Raising a smile in *la ville grimace*

STEPHEN MARKESON

Looking back on the Parisian summer of '89, it strikes me that there was no finer place on earth to be living at the time. The great bicentenary clean-up had achieved the near impossible of making Paris even more beautiful than usual (though some may have found the gilt paint overdone). Museums and galleries were full of mas and theatres were celebrating 1789 in high and low style, and as the sun beat down and the city filled up with visitors, there was an edge, a distinct crackle, to everyday life.

Most pleasing of all, the strenuous efforts of the French tourist industry to persuade the locals to be more friendly to visitors in this of all years had actually paid off. For every haughty *Parigot* complaining that the city had become simply uninhabitable and departing early for the *résidence secondaire*, there were half a dozen ready, even eager, to share the great occasion with visitors.

The result without forfeiting any of the appropriate pomp and circumstance of the event, without the sacrifice of any of its matchless splendour, bicentennial Paris was also great fun. With the best will in the world, that has not always been the case in a city that was once succinctly described — by Henry Miller — as "a cold bitch". Closer to home, *L'Express* magazine passes judgement on *homo Parisianus*: "disturbingly nature and instinctively unhelpful".

So what about the 1990 version of city and inhabitant? Well, Paris is still pretty clean (much more so, surely, than London these days); still pretty safe within the obvious limits of common sense; still compact enough for anyone with a few free days to explore and exploit it in a way that is becoming increasingly difficult in some of the world's other great capitals.

And for all the excellence of its public transport system, Paris remains a paradise for the inquisitive walker, endlessly rewarding for those with

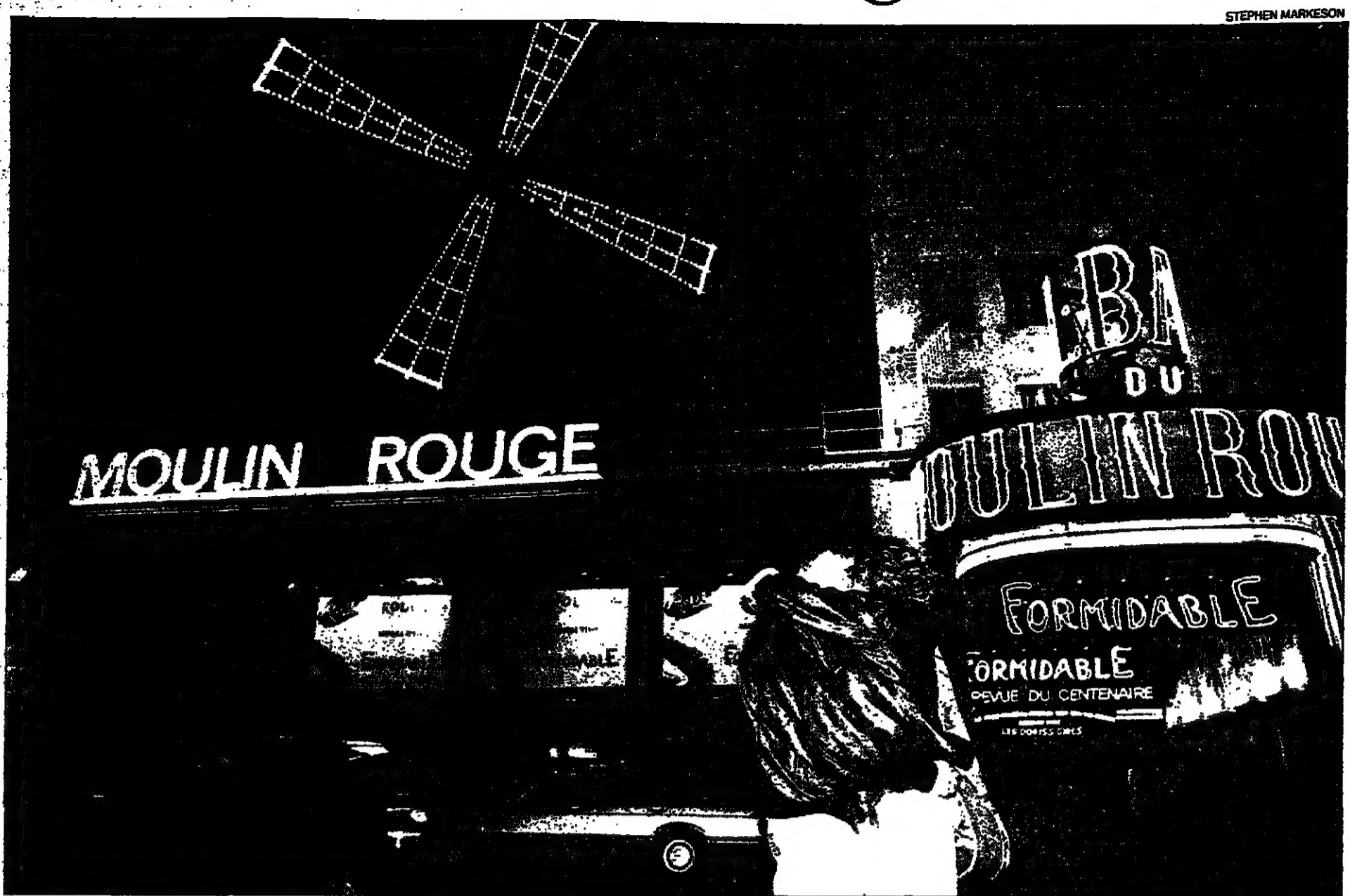
time to stop, look, divert and delve. After three years, it can still stop me dead with sudden and unexpected vistas, such as the Eiffel Tower glimpsed from afar through streets full of gaudy banners coming down the hill into the Chinatown of Belleville.

My own introduction to walking the city was achieved with the aid of A. Lecomte's thick brown *Plan de Paris*, bible of the taxi drivers, and I have yet to find the finest *passage* or *impasse* that does not appear on its excellent maps. It also locates everything from embassies to emergency clinics, post offices to swimming pools, cabarets to promenades and public gardens — among which, incidentally, the *parcs*, historic trees and rare blooms of the *Jardin des Plantes* provide a haven of peace, quiet and natural beauty in the very heart of the Left Bank.

For visitors who do not yet know Paris well, but are determined to learn fast, there is absolutely no reason to avoid well-trodden tourist beats. As a rule, every Parisian attraction worth the name is worth a visit: why avoid Notre Dame, Les Invalides or the Musée d'Orsay and, yes, la Tour Eiffel, just because it seems too corny for words?

By the same token, a boat trip on the Seine is an excellent way to get a grasp of the lay-out of the city between a different and enjoyable angle. French visitors from outside the capital are anything but blasé on the river, exclaiming with unfeigned delight at the familiar postcard sights; between comparing notes on how badly Parisians treat their country cousins.

You could do worse than ask them where they plan to eat: the despised provincials often have a nose for the sort of restaurant combining good food and affordable prices with the right sort of welcome. By all means try tracking down that authentic little place known only to discerning Parisians, but this can be time-consuming, conceivably disappointing as well in the sage words of my *Sunday*



High life, low life: for some, the Moulin Rouge symbolizes the glamour of Paris at night; for others, it is a city of romance. For everyone, it is a place where life has an added edge

*Times* colleague, Brian Moylan, an old Paris hand: "There isn't a bistro worth eating in that some of the tourist millions have not found already."

In any case, as visitors will soon realize, Paris is a remarkably integrated city, where a great many people manage to live in genuine neighbourhoods alongside business and commerce. Thankfully, that means precious few "dead zones", deserted after the evening rush hour, or tatty stretches of tourist wasteland.

And because there are always people around, there are local shops, local bars, local restaurants — all kept keenly

up to scratch by the knowledge that dissatisfied customers can always go round the corner. Take a stroll through the Marais (métro: St Paul and Hôtel de Ville), scorned by some as hopelessly gentrified but, to me, a highly agreeable example of the Parisian "village".

The fact that Paris is also a prodigious, and largely successful, melting pot definitely helps this neighbourhood ambience. North Africans, Senegalese, Vietnamese and Cambodians, Caribbeans: they rub shoulders daily in the poorer districts, usually contributing something of value from their native cul-

ture, customs and cuisine. And while there is a nasty strain of racism among the French, Paris does not seem as badly affected as some provincial cities.

And so to *homo Parisianus*, and what a good (British) friend of the city describes as the golden rule for enjoying it — Never Be Intimidated. Having practised assiduously on fellow citizens for most of their life, Parisians know all about creative intimidation: disdainful head waiters, indifferent shop assistants, loutish taxi drivers and passers-by who treat a polite request for directions like a declaration of hostilities ("J'ai pas un plan, moi"). I'm not a bloody map.

How you react to this aspect of Paris — *la ville grimace*, in the neat phrase of *L'Express* — is obviously a matter of temperament: nobody wants a holiday fraught with rows, but why pay good money to get the foreigner's treatment? My own theory, not yet tested quite to breaking point, is that under their famously hard shell, the *Parigots* are actually quite timid and will often cave in before a justified complaint: there is a lingering respect here for the idea of *le fair play Britannique*, and those magic words, *excusez-moi de vous déranger*, can work wonders. Contrary to received wis-

dom, Parisians do have a sense of humour, even of self-mockery, as Claude Sarraute's marvellous column in *Le Monde* proves five times a week. The other day, a taxi driver assured me that the controversial glass pyramid at the Louvre — love it, hate it, but visit it and what lies below — was really a tomb in which the increasingly imperial François Mitterrand would finally be laid to rest, pharaoh fashion, among his slaves, household pets "and all his women".

The President's other favourite projects for bicentennial year should not be missed either. The starkly

designed Bastille opera house is promising public performances this year, finally allowing us to judge the interior and the computerized acoustics (the old Opéra, just outside my office window, now only stages ballet, but still offers free tours of the imposing Second Empire architecture).

As for the mighty arch at La Défense — best seen, and photographed, from the Pont de Neuilly — on a clear day it can provide a truly thrilling perspective of Paris. Through the Arc de Triomphe, along the Champs-Élysées and into Place de la Concorde, a slice of the history of an incomparable city.

## PARIS: WHAT TO DO AND WHERE TO GO

It is difficult to go wrong in Paris — a stroll along the Seine, around the Latin quarter or through the Marais is enough to slip into the right mood to enjoy all it has to offer — and Paris is all about enjoyment. In case pointers are needed, here are a few suggestions.

**Hôtels**  
*Hôtel Raphael*, 17 Avenue Kléber (42 02 16 00). Sixteenth arrondissement. Métro: Kléber. From £147 per person per night, breakfast £25.50. Beautifully plush with a touch of old-world decadence. In smart surroundings, just beside the Arc de Triomphe. The Raphael bar is one of the Paris haunts.

*Hôtel Duc de Saint-Simon*, 14 rue Saint-Simon (45 48 35 65). Seventh arrondissement. Métro: Rue du Bac. No singles — double room from £95, breakfast £5.25. Small, picturesque hotel with its own little garden tucked away in the heart of *rive gauche* Saint-Germain-des-Frès.

*Hôtel Florida*, 7 rue de Farnes (48 74 47 06). Ninth arrondissement.

**Métro: Liège/Place de Clichy**. £48 per person per night, breakfast included (parking available); an attractive, comfortable hotel. The joy of Paris is that it is a walking city and luckily there is no need to stay away from the centre to find reasonably priced hotels. The ninth arrondissement — below Montmartre — has a particularly plentiful supply.

**Restaurants**  
It's difficult to find the nerve to pick out a handful of good eating houses in a town packed with the finest — but here goes... All prices approximate.

*Drouant*, Place Gaillon (42 65 15 16). Métro: 4 Septembre. One of the most celebrated restaurants in Paris, now beautifully renovated to enhance its belle époque decor. Excellent food (£45 per head with wine, closed Sat, Sun).  
*La Mazarine*, 29 rue Vivienne (42 33 39 31). Métro: Bourse (facing stock exchange). The epitome of the traditional large turn-of-the-century brasserie with original art nouveau decor to make a bustling with diners and waiters

wrapped in long aprons balancing laden trays of good food (£22 with wine).

*China Club*, 50 rue de Charonne (43 43 02 82). Métro: Bastille (next door to the new controversial Bastille opera house). The latest "in" ("à la mode") place to be seen in Paris. Restaurant downstairs — diners only, plus Sunday brunch, comfortable leather armchairs, clubroom upstairs for "le drink" (£25 with wine).

*Chez Georges*, 1 rue du Mail (42 80 07 11). Métro: Sentier. A truly Parisian bistro, off one of the prettiest squares in town — the Place des Victoires. Good old-fashioned French cooking served by down-to-earth waitresses in a happy, relaxed atmosphere (£20 with wine, closed Sun).

*A Priori*, The Galerie Vivienne (42 97 48 75). Métro: Bourse. This delightful tea-room also serves light lunches with delicious desserts or an evening glass of wine — plus a Sunday brunch. It is situated in what must be the loveliest covered arcade in Paris — worth a visit on its own account (lunches

£12, open until seven pm, seven days a week).

*Le Sauvignon*, 80 rue de Saint-Pères (45 48 49 02). Métro: Sévres-Babylone. One of the real wine bars of Paris, with its pretty painted ceilings and walls, delicious cheeses and thick country pâtés — not to mention the good wine. Not a full meal, but very nearly (£25 for wine, cheese and pâté, closed Sun).

**Nightclubs**  
*Shéhérazade*, 3 rue de Liège (48 74 85 20). Métro: Place de Clichy. People kill to be seen here. Open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays — Thursday live music, Friday for "oldies" between 25 and 35, Saturday the well-connected young flock in (entry £10, including first drink).

*La Locomotive*, 80 Boulevard de Clichy (42 57 37 37). Métro: Blanche. Very popular — music for everyone on two floors. (entry £10, including first drink).  
*Les Bains*, 7 rue Bourg l'Abbé (48 87 01 80). Métro: Réunion-Sébastopol. Nightclub with restaurant and bar. Very

selective — you get in only if the doorman likes what he sees (entry £10).

There are good jazz clubs all over Paris, like *New Morning*, 7 rue des Petites-Écuries (45 23 51 41). Métro: Châteauboulevard.

**Getting around**  
All that is needed for getting around is a map (free in Galleries Lafayette, Boulevard Haussmann) and a carnet of Métro and bus tickets, available in bunches of 10 in Métro stations for £31.20, or a day travel card. Métro stations are never more than a stone's throw away, and the Métro is easy to get the hang of. The bus service is good.

See the Musée d'Orsay for the beautiful conversion of the former railway station and for the contents, including breathtaking Impressionist collection, and the print and poster shop. Restaurant upstairs. (Shut Mon, late night Thur.)

The fabulous art nouveau stained glass dome in Galleries Lafayette is worth seeing, as is the similarly exotic one in next-door

Au Printemps department store. Watch out for low-budget shops and supermarkets — Monoprix and Prisunic.

Walk along the rue Saint-Denis (métro: Invalides) and try to resist the dress shops, or go to the flea markets at St Ouen (métro: Porte de St Ouen); clothes a specialty — open during week.

**Getting there**  
British Airways flies daily to Paris from a number of British airports, at return fares from £84 (information: 01-897 4000).

The Air Miles scheme offers British Airways flights and accommodation packages to Paris from 1090 Air Miles vouchers. Return flights to Paris are available for 450 Air Miles, and accommodation can be organized on a cash basis (the Ambassador Hotel, for example, is £54 per person per night).

To register and find out more about Air Miles, call 0293 513 633. ● The international telephone dialling code for Paris is 010 33 1.

Susan MacDonald

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## TRAVEL

# Chance meetings with water sprites

Chris Brasher, who has loved the Thames for 50 years, welcomes the plan to create a 175-mile river footpath

In the summer before war broke out, Robert Gibbings drifted down the Thames in a self-designed and home-built craft which he named "The Willow". In his book *Sweet Thames Run Silently* he describes how one morning, when he was tied up in a quiet backwater, "the rain came down on me so that I shouldn't have been surprised if whales had dropped out of the sky... just as I lifted a corner of the canopy to glimpse if there was a break in the sky, what should I see on the opposite bank but a girl, running fast up-stream, and she with nothing on. It was still raining so hard that I could not see clearly, but instead of the delicate pink which I am led to believe is the usual colour of naked damsels, this naiad was shining all over with the rain, so that she might have been clothed in silver sequins."

That, I remember now, is when I fell in love with the Thames. Nearly 50 years have passed since then, and for 25 of them I have lived no more than a hundred yards from the

Thames and I have walked and run and bicycled along its banks and it is always changing, always enchanting.

Recently I have been exploring the river with the aid of two invaluable paperbacks. The first is called *The Thames Walk*, and its author, David Sharp, delivered the third and newest edition to my house on Monday. Although he will not say it himself, he and the Ramblers' Association, of which he is a vice-president, are the heroes who have doggedly gnawed at the authorities until finally — last September — the Government has given its approval to a five-year programme which will create new paths to fill the gaps and build new river crossings so that the path can live up to its name — the Thames Path — and hug the bank of the river for 175 miles.

Until that day, David Sharp insists on using his own name, the Thames Walk, because he has to find routes away from the river, to bypass those gaps which have appeared since the barges and their horses used the towpath as one of the great



Sweet Thames: the towpath at Runnymede, where the Magna Carta was sealed

trading routes of our country. Logic decrees that the towpath should be continuous on one side of the river, but logic did not matter to landowners of old. There was, for instance, a certain Mr Worlidge who in the 18th century owned a meadow opposite Maple-durham Court, where Queen Elizabeth I spent summer weekends. He refused to allow the towpath to cross his meadow, so the barges had to

transport their horses across the river by ferry, twice in the space of a quarter of a mile. How those barges must have cursed him, and we curse him to this day because the ferries have ceased long since, and we walkers have to take to the road, hard by the Roebuck Inn where, in 1890, four gentlemen rowing from Oxford to London in a skiff jumped ashore for some refreshment. One of them,

their captain, Figgis by name, struck up a tune on the pub's piano, and was soon joined by the landlord and his son, on violin and viola respectively, and one of Mozart's trios drifted over the water. Oh to be in England in the days when pubs could produce home-made Mozart!

I have always believed that much of the pleasure from any walk is the preparation, so I will not ruin your pleasure by

suggesting any particular walk for a day or weekend. With the aid of *The Thames Walk* and another paperback, *The Ordnance Survey Guide to the River Thames*, you will find all the information you need: pubs and restaurants, boatyards and museums.

British Rail will even take you to within 1½ miles of the source if you alight at Kemble Station. That name takes me back to my schooldays when, in grey flannel shorts, I reluctantly took tickets to Kemble and then bus to my first boarding school.

One thing I urge upon you: beg or borrow a copy of *Sweet Thames Run Silently*, and find out what happened to that encounter between Robert Gibbings and the naked naiad. It is a classic of English literature and his book will make you yearn for the great River Thames.

*The Thames Walk* by David Sharp is published by the Ramblers' Association and distributed by W. F. Foulsham of Slough (0753 38637). Price £2.95.

*The Ordnance Survey Guide to the River Thames and River Wey*, edited by David Perrott, is published by Robert Nicholson Publications, London W1P 6JD. Price £6.95.

*A Walk Along the Thames Path*, by Gareth Hux Davies, is published by Michael Joseph. Price £14.99.

## TRAVEL NEWS

## Stubbed out

An independent poll among passengers during an experimental smoking ban on two of Lufthansa's routes within Germany found that 79 per cent of respondents — including more than half the smokers questioned — were in favour of making the ban permanent. As a result, a no-smoking rule could be introduced on all German domestic flights with the start of the winter timetable in October.

Meanwhile, the UK Civil Aviation Authority says it does not favour a total ban on in-flight smoking.

Passengers travelling to Gatwick Airport via the A23 and M23 link roads between now and the end of June are being advised to allow more time for their journeys because of roadworks.

## Cruise for less

French Railways is equipping three of its Motorail services to carry bicycles this summer. They will travel in a wagon on services from Boulogne to Brive-la-Gaillarde, Nantes and Narbonne, for £16 one-way. Bookings can be made through French Railway's London Office (01-409 3518).

P&O Ferries has launched a pre-emptive strike against what it predicts will be the "improvised service" provided by the Channel Tunnel, by introducing "Club Class" on its sailings from Dover to Calais, Boulogne and Zeebrugge. A £5 supplement on the normal one-way fare provides a guaranteed seat in a special lounge, with complementary refreshments and newspapers (0304 283388).

British Airways has introduced a special information and reservations telephone line (01-562 6313) for use by profoundly deaf passengers. The new service is based on the "Minicom" system, which enables deaf people to communicate via visual display units.

French leave Holidays in privately-owned châteaux in the western Loire region are being offered for the first time this year by Unicorn Holidays (0462 422223). A three-night short break costs from £144 per person, inclusive of bed-and-breakfast accommodation and return ferry crossing for car and passengers.

Explore China The adventure-holiday specialist Exodus is to be allowed to take its own ex-

pedition vehicles into China. They will be used this year on two 42-day expeditions on the "Silk Road" route from Istanbul in Pakistan to Peking. The cost is £1,350, plus about £500 for return flights from Heathrow (01-675 7996).

The venue for packaged weddings has spread to Cyprus. Olympic Holidays says it can make all the local arrangements for its customers. Wedding extras cost about £250, with a Cyprus special licence adding a further £140 (01-359 3596).

## Cruise for less

Bridgewater Boats, the Berkhamstead-based narrow-boat company, is offering £50 off a week's canal cruising between April 28 and May 5. Prices now start at £350 for a four-berth boat or £410 for an eight-berth boat (0442 863615).

Trail riding in the Sierra Nevada, a riding safari in Tanzania and Botswana and horseback treks along the USSR/China border are being operated by Cavalry Tours this year, in conjunction with Abercrombie & Kent (01-730 9600).

## French leave

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Philip Ray

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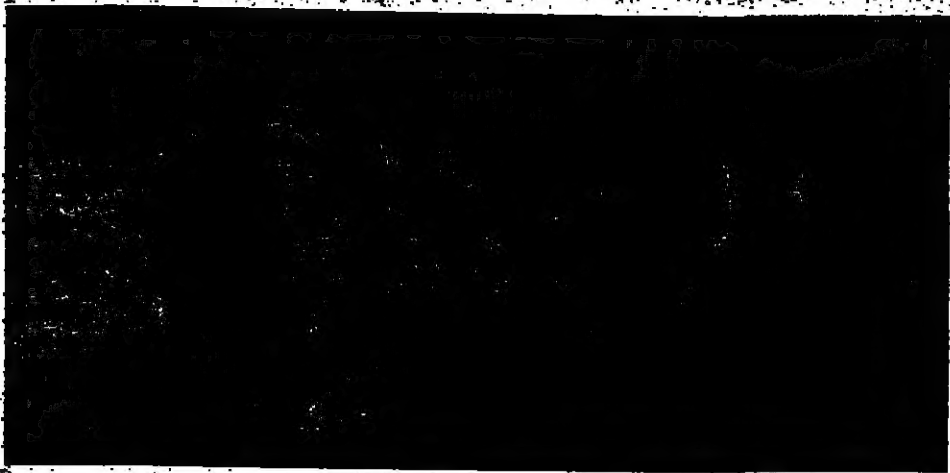
## TRAVEL

J.P. Kinnaird

PHOTOGRAPHS: NICOLAS DESYLLAS/MICHAEL DUNNE

# The Fat Boys' Outing

Bill Powell dons walking boots and, with a rucksack on his back, goes a'wandering through western Crete



The Greekman was a subject of jokes, but a rare sight in reality. This one is near Malla

But they might not let us in with rucksacks and nowhere to stay," said my old pal, Roger, during a planning session in the pub, repeating what wives and friends had warned. Tubby, then approaching middle age, had no business to be thinking about a "hotel-less" walking holiday in Crete, and we had heard how Greece was fed up with hippies and other unprofitable wanderers. As it turned out, our budget tickets supposedly included basic hotel accommodation, but if our trip was going to be a touch historic, as we had told everybody it would be, we would have to sleep out under the stars at least some of the time.

So, booted and pale and soberly Guernseyed we flew out of Gatwick in a plane of youngsters bound for the concrete high-rise hotels and discos of Agios Nikolaos. Modestly, we mentioned that we were on a walking holiday and would probably sleep wherever we found ourselves at the end of a day's march. They were impressed, but thought we were mad.

Three in the morning at Eirakion Airport and we experienced a twinge of envy as we waved goodbye to our

young companions and their enormous suitcases as they were whisked away eastwards in luxury coaches. We adjusted our rucksacks and trudged past the army barracks to the town centre. Dawn was coming up and, true to the spirit of what had been dubbed the "Fat Boys' Outing," we went in search of breakfast. This consisted of "blast-off" coffee and what we assumed to be the Hellenic original of doughnuts. A dose on the local bus going up the coast road towards the old port of Khania, and in no time we found ourselves at our official "setting-off" point: a

## TRAVEL NOTES

● Bill Powell's air ticket to Iraklion cost £117 return from a "good bucket shop". Olympic Airways (01-346 3080) has a Superpax Server return fare to Athens at £190 (weekdays). The onward fare to Iraklion is £56 return.

● Camping anywhere other than at an official site is illegal. If you can't find such a site, seek permission to camp on private land.

● Non-EC passport holders must carry the equivalent of about £12 per day for their proposed stay.

quiet beach where a small, freezing river discharges into a bay just west of Kithymon. There were turtle bones in the sand but, alas, no loggerheads have been seen for several years. I was puffed to see that a restaurant and hotel had appeared on what was once the turtles' breeding ground.

Years before, when I had first slept on that beach, all one could hear was the sound of the surf and the scurrying of an occasional rat. Now it was Martha and the Vandellas. But in the morning we and the goldfinches had the small world to ourselves. During the night the sea had tidied the beach.

Gegenüber's eau-de-Cologne, and razors and pouch soaps propped on rocks in the river's outflow, we got down to some serious ablutions, witnessed from the mountainsides by spirals of vultures. Exploring the tiny river later, I was amazed to see river turtles, large eels and kingfishers. Cyclamen flowered on rock ledges and the sun brought out the scent of mastic.

An afternoon walk up the hill paths took us to Exopolis, a village almost out of reach of popular tourism, populated by aged relatives of the young entrepreneurs of the resort below. Here were bought-in-

lace, stone walls with fig trees growing into them, ancient oil *pitohi*, and a taverna from which you could see the curve of the magnificent coastline, starting to bristle with hotels.

Down in Khania later, dinner was prepared by a young restaurateur from Athens. He had had a hard season feeding the tourists and was looking washed-out, but cheerful. "You don't want chips? Good. I give you real Greek potato," he said. Dimitri's mashed spuds contained masses of garlic, olive oil and lemon juice. It tasted terrific and we were still exhaling garlic vapours a day and a half later when we headed south towards the White Mountains.

On the map, Práses is a dot beside a meandering road that crosses the heart of western Crete to the plain of Omalos and the head of the Gorge of Samariá. Now it was getting dark and we were starving. There were no more dots for 10 or 12 kilometres after

Práses. It didn't look good. Were we being punished for setting off so stily without provisions? Not this time: we came around a corner on the dark road and walked into a brightly lit taverna full of human noise and smells of food and wine. Práses.

In the middle of our heroic consumption of wine, bread and fried eggs floating in olive oil, a dark youth came over and said: "Rubbish grub, ain't it? They wouldn't be allowed to sell it back in Aussie." This was Andreas, from Melbourne, on a visit to the village of his ancestors. He was hoping to finance the trip by harvesting walnuts and chestnuts from the trees that still belonged to his family. Next day we helped Andreas with his nut-gathering in return for his taking us under his wing.

Everyone we met in Práses, except Andreas and his Australian/Greek girlfriend, was old, as people had been in Exopolis. The young must be

out in the world seeking their fortunes. We would encounter old and smiling people on the hill paths as we staggered back with sacks solid with nuts. Animated dialect conversations with Andreas ensued. "Gee, you guys," he said after one of these, "I reckon I could hire you out as a harvesting team and make lots of dough. They all want to know if you'll come to work for them next."

The villages are not often apparent from the main roads. They tend to straggle off in the directions of small valleys, and quickly become obscured by hills and trees. This probably explains why we had not found many of the villages marked on the map. In a village like Práses, you can see plenty of the traditional stone and wood buildings that, in the towns, have been replaced by characterless concrete. The improved fitness we

had gained there and the friendly time we had in Práses set us up for the rest of our journey which, among other places, took us to the ancient port of Soudia, facing the Libyan Sea. There we slept among rare sand lilies on the beach and tended to avoid the Euro-youth we encountered in the charming-despite-everything seasonal bars where we strayed.

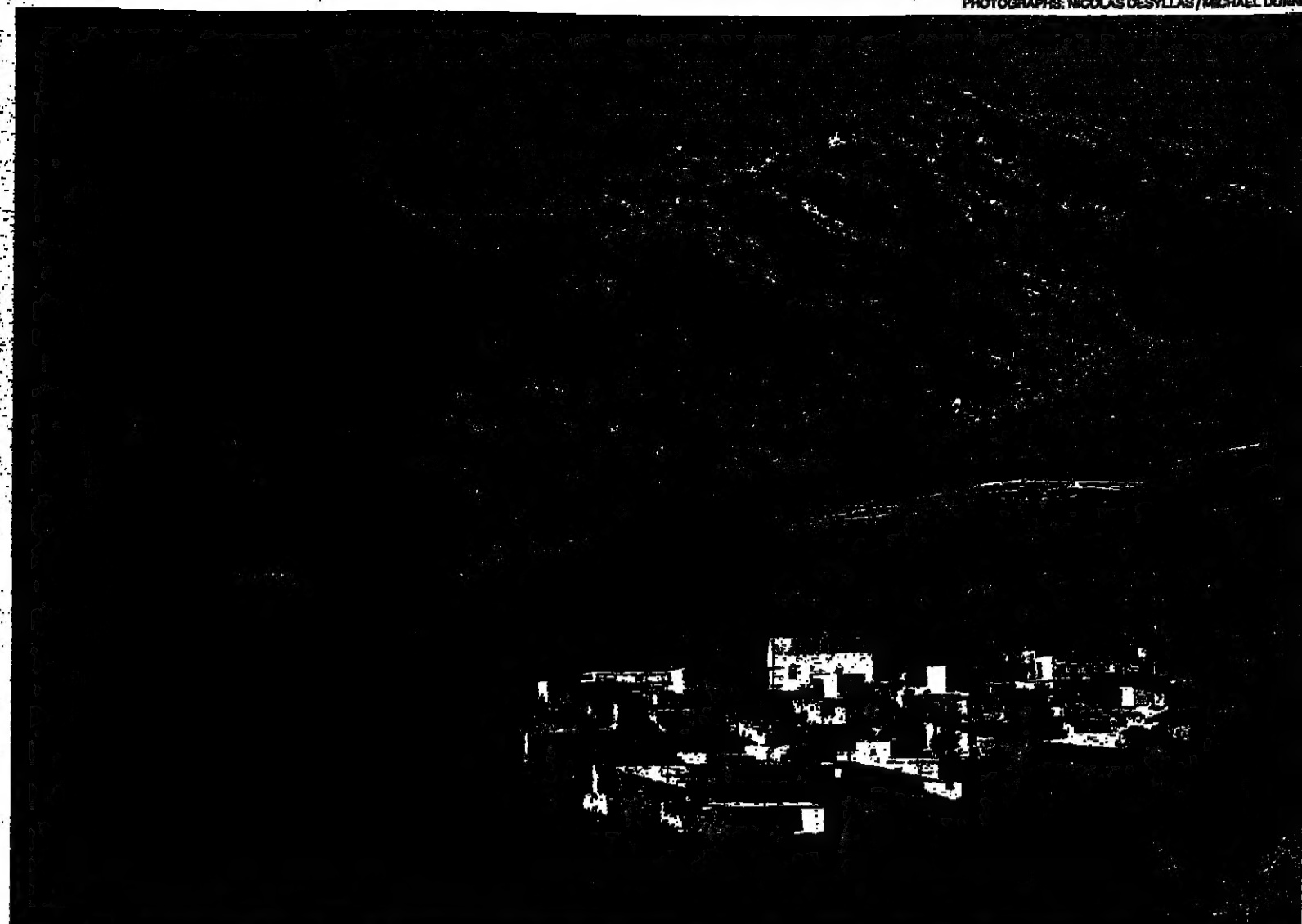
Práses, and places like it, did spoil us for things like local wine (*krasi*), olive oil for Cretan raki (*tsikoudia*), and we felt that the Fates had led us to the "real" Crete. But it was still a treat to find ourselves in the bustling tourist spot of Palaiochora at the end of a slog along the coastline from Soudia, having seen ancient ruins, vultures and ravens, carpets of cyclamen, but not another person in the whole wild landscape.

True, Práses was strong on people interest: there was Xenophon, known to every-

one as Fondas, who had returned to live in his home village after a career as a ballet dancer. He had suffered persecution and exile during the Colonels' rule; now he was regarded as a national treasure. It seemed odd to be sitting at his table in an peasant farmhouse in an obscure corner of Crete listening to him reminisce about life in Moscow, New York, Paris and Berlin.

A tiny old woman in widow's black materialized beside the table where we sat enjoying 20-year-old scandals. "She is a poor old relative of mine and she has come to give you a present," Fondas explained. A skeletal, brown hand presented a few walnuts. Small bright eyes surrounded by complications of wrinkles regarded us with amusement, then she was gone.

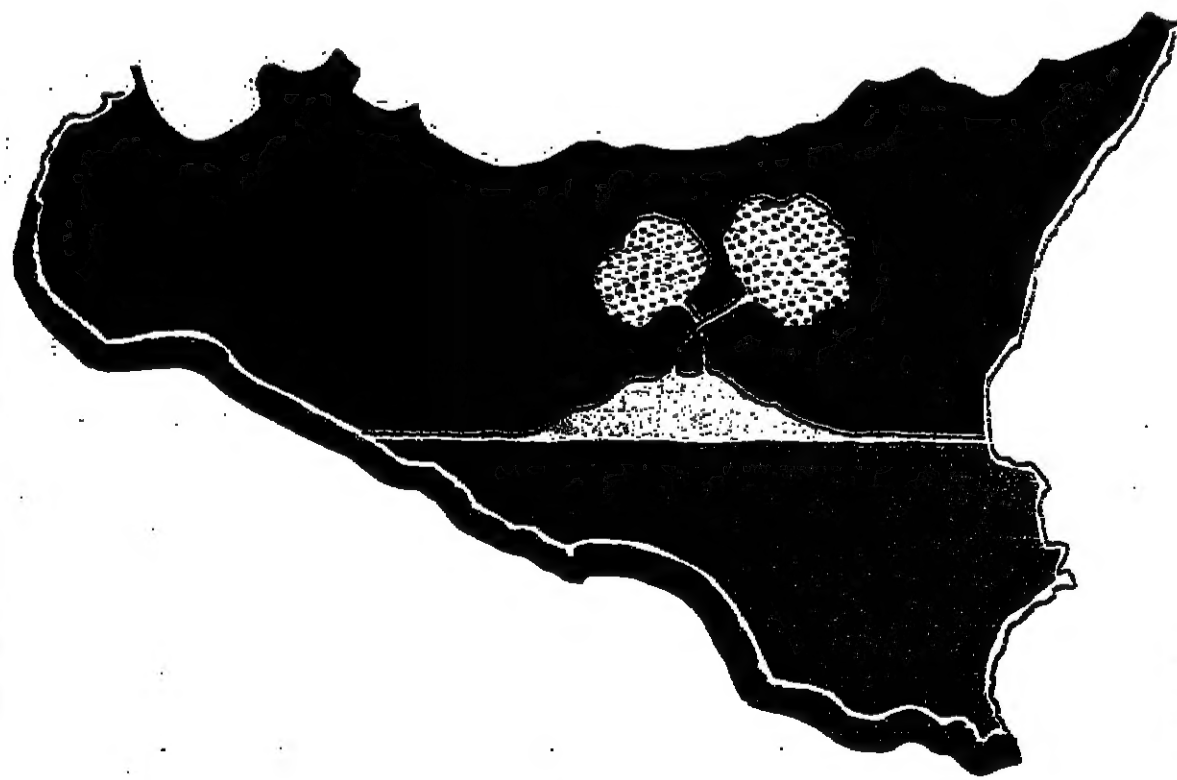
"Now she's off to tell everyone all about you," Fondas had said. "You're famous now; you see, nobody ever comes to this village."



Hidden treasures: tiny Cretan villages, outside the reach of popular tourism, are a godsend to the walker seeking "the real Crete" and its people

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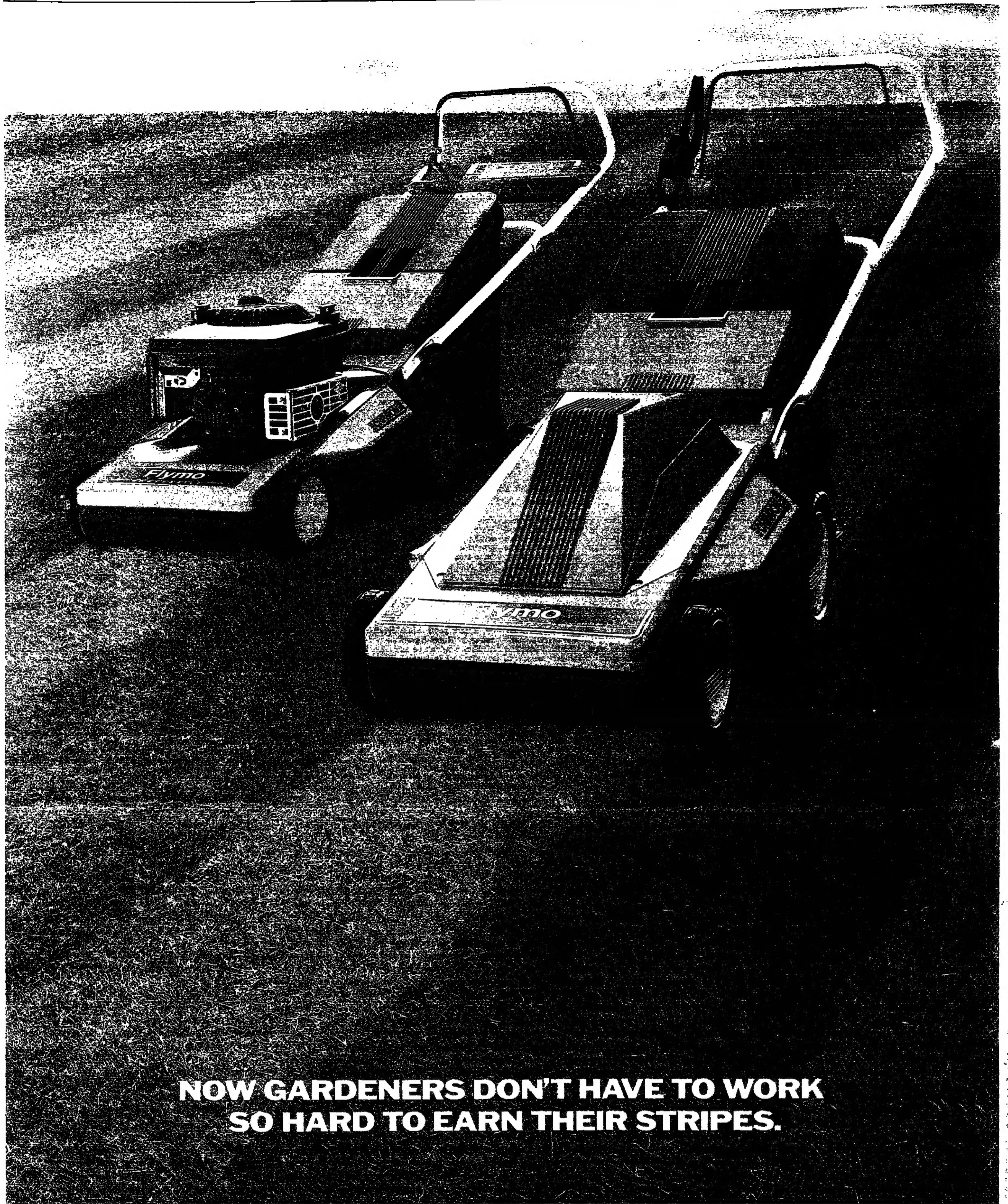
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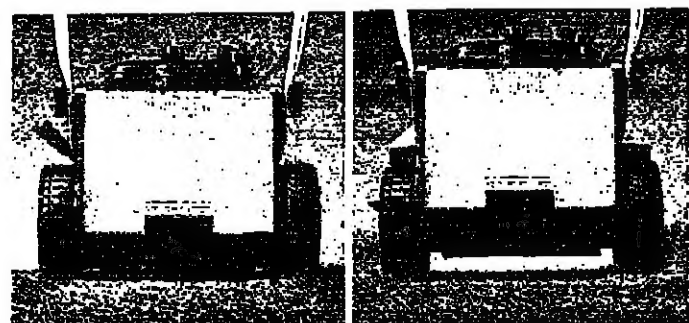


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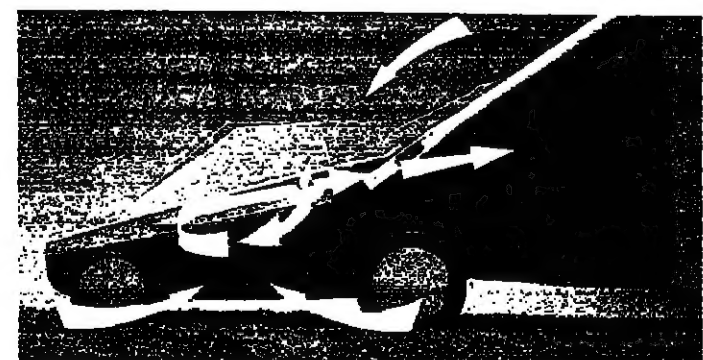
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